

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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No. 361.—VOL. 14.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1862.

PRICE 2½D.—STAMPED 3½D.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

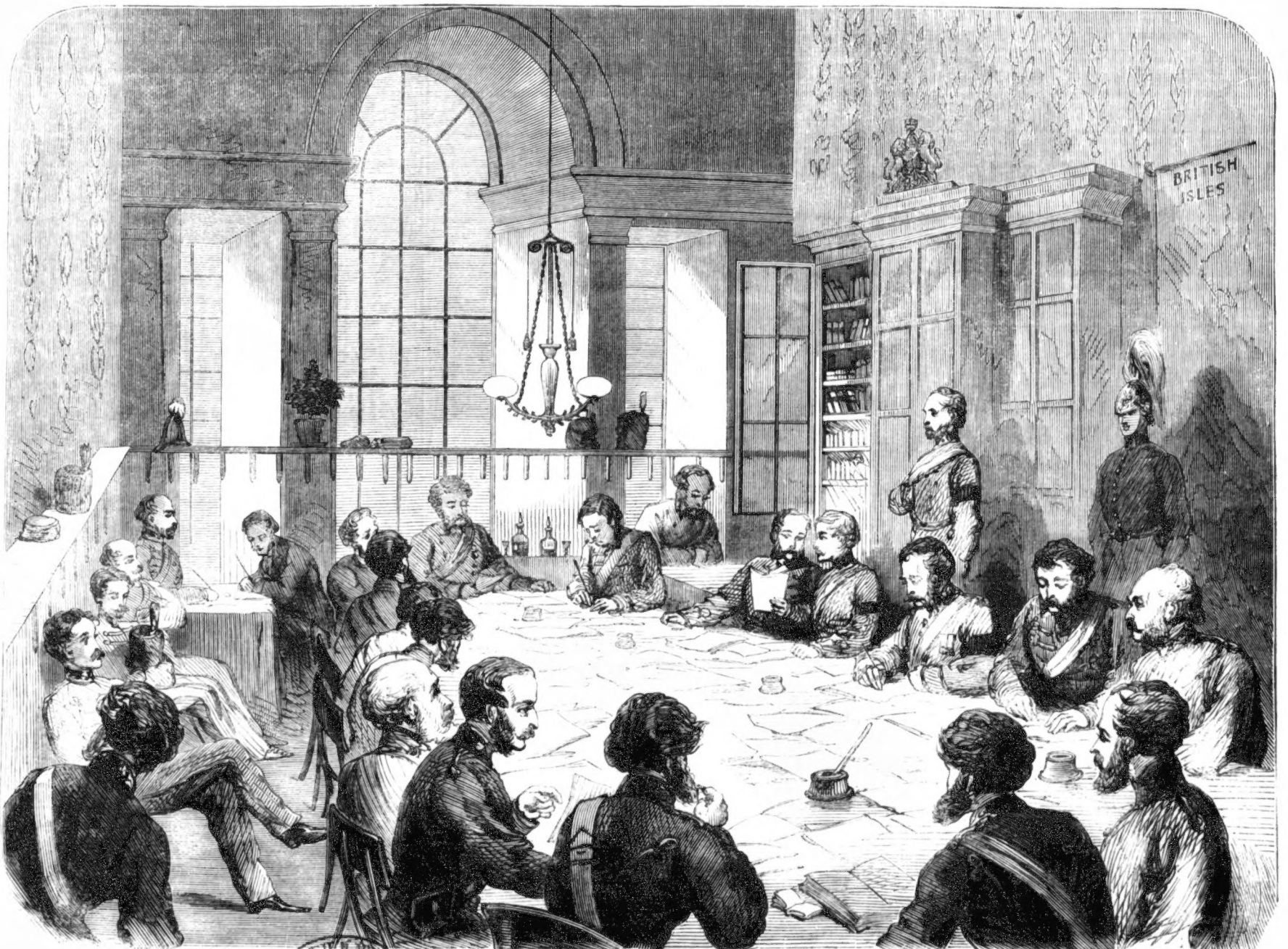
A LITTLE liberty, like a little learning, would seem to be a dangerous thing. At least so it appears in the case of our vivacious and volatile friend the Gaul, if we may judge from the recent proceedings of the French Senate. Scenes of such excitement, emotion, impulse, and passion, taking the form of vociferous and vehement interruption, have seldom been witnessed in any deliberative assembly—not even in the Houses of Congress of the once United States of America. First of all, the Corps Législatif has the audacity to receive with expressions of dissent and disapprobation the bill of dotation which his Imperial Majesty caused to be presented to that body calling upon its members to mark by a special reward the eminent services of General Cousin Montauban, Commander-in-Chief of the French expedition to China. If meant as a mere piece of spiteful opposition to the Emperor, it was a most absurd and untimely demonstration. The General, like a chivalrous soldier, very loath to receive any honour grudgingly or unwillingly granted, wrote to the Emperor to respectfully request him to order the bill to be withdrawn. His Imperial Majesty, in a characteristic and admirably-written note, most positively declines to do anything of the sort. He throws upon the Chamber the disgrace of not appreciating or adequately rewarding distinguished military service. "As to myself," writes the Emperor, "I desire the country and the army to know that I, as the judge of the necessity of political and military services, wished to honour by a national gift an enterprise unexampled." The last sentence of his short but telling letter is worthy of Tacitus or Gibbon—"Great actions are most easily performed where they are best appreciated, and it is only degenerate nations that dole out public gratitude."

A great sensation seems to have been caused in Paris by the attack of M. de Segur D'Aguesseau upon M. de Persigny, and his speech is regarded as a remarkable and decided oratorical

success. M. de Pietri appears to have occasioned more interruption by a written speech read aloud in a harsh voice, with a strong Italian accent. During a portion of this public reading every sentence seems to have provoked some rabid and violent interjection, many of them not particularly intelligible. But the speeches which have attracted the largest amount of public attention, and which are especially significant, were those of the Marquis de Rochejaquelein and Prince Napoleon. During these orations the storm of interruption seems to have raged in the wildest manner. It, of course, is not known whether the Prince was speaking from a brief drawn up for him at the Tuileries or not. If the speech were intended to be pacific or conciliatory, it was the most indiscreet harangue ever uttered; if meant to probe public feeling and excite party passions, so as to more widely divide the friends of progress from those who sympathise with a policy of retrogression, it was eminently successful. We are disposed to believe that the latter was its object. The question of the Pope's temporal power is agitating France to its centre, and the sagacious ruler of that country wishes to ascertain as exactly as he can on which side public opinion preponderates. He wisely desires to at least unmask the religionists and reactionists in the Senate and the Legislative Assembly. The long-winded orations of Senators who cannot speak extempore or really debate will not largely affect the carefully-prepared and long-matured schemes of a Monarch who is capable of striking out a policy, and who has, by his determination of character and fixedness of purpose, the power of rigorously carrying it out. His observation about the "People and Army of France" in the letter to which we have previously alluded is sufficiently significant. If he succeed in making himself really the favourite of the people as well as of the army, he may defy all the combinations and tactics of worn-out political cliques. On Monday the President of the Senate, M. Troplong, delivered a serious and formal reprimand to all those who

had taken a part in the excitement and confusion of the recent debate.

One of our own Legislative Chambers presented a somewhat unusual scene on Monday evening, when the dashing descendant of all the O'Donoghues was brought by the Premier before the House charged with a breach of Parliamentary privilege in having sent a hostile message to Sir Robert Peel. Lord Palmerston seems to have regarded this threatened passage of arms from a comic point of view, which is assuredly the one from which it should be looked at; but his mock solemnity was very impressive, and we can sympathise with the confusion of Major Gavin, who was referred to the Prime Minister as Sir Robert's friend in "the difficulty," when he found that friend taking a purely official and Parliamentary view of the challenge. The Secretary for Ireland has a happy knack of getting into hot water. He is too independent, too enthusiastic and fiery, and too recklessly fluent in debate to keep out of scrapes which other men easily avoid. Sarcasm and invective are very important elements in discussion, but they are rather the weapons of those in opposition than of those in office. While enjoying the loaves and fishes of promotion, honourable and right honourable gentlemen should be suave and gentle in their speech, and keep the javelins of satire in the quivers. Mr. Bentinck, on the night after the O'Donoghue scene, distinguished himself as the friend and advocate of all oratorical bores in the House of Commons. He was assuredly well selected as the champion of such a cause, for he is a bore of the highest qualifications. The bore fears a "count-out" as a dunce does a satirist or a truant schoolboy a rod; and therefore prosy Mr. Bentinck, aided by that rising young nobleman who reviles his own party in the *Superfine Review*, did their little all to bring "counts-out" into disrepute. The House made a very correct estimate of the value of their sapient proposition, as the division list sufficiently shows. The metropolitan members and Lord J. Manners so vehemently



THE COURT-MARTIAL ON CAPTAIN ROBERTSON AT DUBLIN.

opposed the bill to authorise the formation of a road between Kensington Gore and Bayswater that, although supported by Lord Palmerston, Mr. Cowper withdrew the bill.

From America, as we anticipated, we have news of successes to the Federal arms. The capture of Fort Henry, on the Tennessee, gives them the command of that river, and enables them to cut off the line of intercourse by railway between Memphis and Bowling Green. Roanoke Island having been captured, and the naval expedition against the seaboard of Carolina having gradually advanced, the prospects of Southern success are looking gloomy; and the threats of the North to circumscribe and circumvent the Confederates look more feasible than they have hitherto done. The attack on Fort Henry was, as all other operations in this civil war have been, accompanied by a very slight loss of life considering the magnitude of the operations. War without bloodshed is an entirely novel invention, which does infinite credit to American ingenuity. If they could only make it as inexpensive as it is bloodless, and so systematically arrange it that it should not injure commerce and agriculture, or interfere with trade, it would, indeed, be a fine pastime for a great people.

The negotiations which have been for some time going on between France and Prussia about a commercial treaty have been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. Prussia is acting for the Zollverein and all the States which compose the German Customs Union. The treaty will shortly be signed at Berlin.

In the daily papers of Wednesday appeared a letter from the ex-Queen of Naples warmly thanking sundry English and Irish "noble ladies" for having presented her with a "turret-shaped diadem emblematic of Gaeta," accompanied by an address. We cannot admire the taste or judgment of these fair and noble sympathisers with the worn-out and now departed despotism of the cruel Bomba. Truly no cause is too bad to have some adherents.

The Bishop of Exeter, our readers will have seen, has been amusing his aged leisure with a little quiet persecution of the Rev. Julian Young, who was guilty of the heinous crime of reading "Hamlet" to a public assembly for the benefit of a charitable institution. Dr. Lushington is again employed in the Court of Arches settling, by the help of "learned gentlemen" in wigs and gowns, what are the doctrines of the Church of England.

COURT-MARTIAL ON CAPTAIN ROBERTSON.

For the last fortnight a court-martial has been sitting in Dublin to try Captain A. M. Robertson, of the 4th Dragoons, on the following charges:—

First charge—For conduct unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman, and to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, in having, after being grossly and publicly insulted by Colonel Dickson, in London, in the Army and Navy Club, on the 17th of October, 1860, after not succeeding in his endeavour to obtain an apology or redress for the same and to have the difference adjusted between them, failed to comply with the provisions of the 17th Article of War in not submitting the matter to be dealt with by the commanding officer of his regiment. Second Charge—For having behaved in a scandalous manner, unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman, in having stated in a letter, addressed by him to Major-General Forster, Military Secretary, and bearing date the 4th of October, 1861, that he had submitted his application to retire from the Army by the sale of his commission "entirely through intimidation," he, the said Captain Robertson, then well knowing the said statement to be false.

The evidence led has been of a very voluminous character, but the gist of it was—that Colonel Dickson, of the late Swiss Legion, is in some way connected by marriage with Captain Robertson; that certain differences had arisen between them in regard to marriage settlements, which were the subject of litigation in the law courts; that Captain Robertson on one occasion sought an interview with Colonel Dickson at the Army and Navy Clubs, and that Colonel Dickson at first refused to see him, and afterwards, on encountering him in the hall of the club-house, called forward a military friend, and said, "This is Captain Robertson of the 4th Dragoons—he is a blackguard, and I will horsewhip him in the presence of his regiment;" that Captain Robertson thereupon remarked that two could play at that game, and subsequently took steps to obtain an explanation or satisfaction by placing the matter in the hands first of Captain Henry, then of the 4th Dragoons, and afterwards in those of Mr. Owen, an officer of Militia, but, according to Captain Robertson's statement, without being able to obtain either; that Colonel Dickson stated that he would have nothing to do with Captain Robertson till he had settled with him legally, and that then he would settle with him altogether; that the matter came to the ears of the commanding officer of the 4th Dragoons, Colonel Bentinck, who took measures to induce Captain Robertson to vindicate his honour as an officer and a gentleman; that Captain Robertson declared his determination to have either an apology or a "satisfactory explanation;" but that, after the lapse of several months, he having still failed to do so, a feeling of dissatisfaction with his conduct arose among his brother officers, and that Colonel Bentinck felt it to be his duty to bring the matter under the notice of higher military authorities; that thereupon the affair was represented to General Wetherall, at that time commanding the forces in the northern and midland districts of England, the 4th Dragoons being then stationed in Birmingham; that General Wetherall declined to order a court-martial, but did not thereby approve of Captain Robertson's conduct; that at a later period, the regiment having been removed to Ireland, Colonel Bentinck brought the matter before the notice of General Forster, Military Secretary to Sir George Brown, commanding the troops in Ireland; and that, at an interview that officer and Colonel Brownrigg, the Deputy-Adjutant and prosecutor in the case, had with Captain Robertson, the latter consented to withdraw from the service by the sale of his commission; that this consent he subsequently recalled on the ground that it had been extracted from him by intimidation; and that thereupon Captain Robertson, after being allowed leave of absence in order that he might take the proper steps to clear his honour, and still failing to do so, was placed under arrest and a court-martial ordered upon his conduct. In the course of the trial a great deal of matter was stated which incidentally bore upon the case, and a good deal that had no direct connection with it at all. Some points, however, may be mentioned. For instance, Colonel Dickson denied that he ever refused to give Captain Robertson "satisfaction." Captain Henry asserted that Captain Robertson made it a condition of his meeting Colonel Dickson that the latter should deposit the value of his commission in the 4th Dragoons; and, on the part of the prisoner, that Colonel Bentinck had conceived a dislike to him, and wished to force him out of the regiment to admit of Lieutenant and Adjutant Harman obtaining his troop; that, with this view, Colonel Bentinck subjected Captain Robertson to continual annoyance and undue severity in order to compel him to resign—among other things, threatening him with trial by court-martial for some transactions which had

taken place between him and some brother-officers several years ago; and, finally, that Colonel Bentinck refused Captain Robertson leave of absence, and otherwise treated him in a manner calculated to humiliate and degrade him in the eyes of his brother officers and the men of the regiment. It was further alleged by Captain Robertson that, having been unable to get either apology or satisfaction from Colonel Dickson, he had taken measures to have him "posted" at the Army and Navy Clubs, but that the secretaries of those institutions had refused to allow the notice to lie upon the tables of the clubs.

The case for the prosecution having occupied several days, many of the foregoing facts being brought out in the cross-examination of witnesses adduced, the trial was adjourned for a few days in order to allow the prisoner to prepare his defence. On the re-assembling of the Court on Thursday week, accordingly, Captain Robertson read his defence, in the course of which he said that he withdrew the application to retire from the service because, when he had time to reflect, he felt that he had been weak and imprudent in yielding so hastily to the influences that had then and previously been brought to bear against him, and that as an officer and a gentleman he was entitled to request that his letter, written in an unguarded moment, when taken by surprise, deprived of the advice of his friends, and not a free agent, should not be acted upon by the Commander-in-Chief. What was he to do? Had he sent a challenge he was liable to be cashiered. Had he tamely submitted to insult he would be deservedly treated as a coward. Circumstances as he was, he substantially complied with the 17th article of war. He consulted a brother officer as his friend, placed the matter in his hands, and through him repeatedly sought satisfaction for the outrage of which he was the object. Captain Robertson next detailed the circumstances of the outrage. He contradicted in the most positive terms Captain Henry's statement that he required that Colonel Dickson should deposit the price of his commission. He had informed his commanding officer of all the steps he had taken to obtain satisfaction. The Colonel said a challenge should have been sent. Captain Henry was employed to make up the difference. On his failing the prisoner resolved to post Colonel Dickson in the clubs, and sent a note accordingly in strong terms. Still Colonel Bentinck was not satisfied. The secretaries of the clubs, however, refused to let the notice lie on their tables, as being too personal. Knowing all these facts, Colonel Bentinck brought the matter before Sir George Wetherall, commanding the northern district, calling for an investigation in the name of the officers of the regiment. This application brought an answer, dated July 1, 1861, requesting to be informed if the prisoner had received an ample apology or obtained satisfaction in full from Colonel Dickson, agreeably to his determination as expressed in his letter of May 20, 1861, as he had ample time afforded him to vindicate his honour as an officer and a gentleman, and to remove from the officers of the regiment the stigma of having among them one who had allowed himself to be publicly and grossly insulted, and who at the end of eight months had not obtained an apology or satisfaction of any sort. He (the prisoner) arraigned the conduct of Colonel Bentinck in causing that letter to be written to him with the knowledge of all that occurred as tyrannical and vindictive. Captain Robertson then detailed the indignities which he alleged had been heaped upon him by Colonel Bentinck. He had been ordered to bring in his papers and leave the regiment; he had been refused leave of absence; he had been ordered to attend morning and evening stables, which no officer but the subaltern on duty is required to do. He complained to Sir George Wetherall, but he believed his complaint was never forwarded. He was ordered out of the messroom in presence of his brother officers; an officer four years his junior was placed over him on one occasion, and he, an officer of fifteen years' standing, was obliged to exercise in the riding-school with a back board. The prisoner put in several letters referring to these indignities and others he had endured. He accused his colonel of getting a document signed by the officers requiring him to leave the regiment. He then described how he was peremptorily ordered, without time for deliberation or to consult friends to sell out or stand a court-martial.

Evidence for the defence was then led at considerable length, but which our limited space forbids us to detail; the object of the questions put to the witnesses being to substantiate the statements made by Captain Robertson in his written defence. Of course, the result of the trial will not be made public till after the whole case has been submitted to the Commander-in-Chief, the Duke of Cambridge; and in the meantime it would obviously be improper to make any comments upon it. The interest the trial has excited, however, has been very great, and has been heightened, perhaps, by the rarity, nowadays, of such proceedings against officers of the British Army. In these circumstances, the Illustration on the preceding page, and this narrative, will not be uninteresting to our readers.

THE MEXICAN THRONE.—Another candidate for the throne of Mexico has recently appeared in the person of M. Bérton, of Soaux, near Paris, who on several occasions put himself forward as "the candidate of humanity" to represent his own countrymen in the French Legislative Body, but always without success. He now offers himself to the Mexicans under the same designation, and promises to convert their country into a terrestrial paradise if they will but make him their king.

THE PANTOGRAPH.—A new system of telegraph has been submitted to the Emperor Napoleon, to which its inventor, M. Caselli, has given the name of "pantograph." This telegraph has been already worked at Florence and Leghorn. It transmits autograph messages and drawings with all the perfections and defects of the originals. An inhabitant of Leghorn wrote four lines from Dante, and they appeared in the same handwriting at Florence. A portrait of the same poet was painted at Leghorn, and it was reproduced at Florence line for line and shade for shade. A bill of exchange was drawn in the same manner, and its authenticity admitted.

THE PRINCE OF WALLIS AT VENICE.—A correspondent, writing from Venice on the 20th ult., says:—"The day after the arrival of the Prince of Wales, H.M.S. Osborne came and anchored nearly opposite the Imperial Palace in front of the Piazzetta. Every facility had been given by the authorities, and the place of anchorage was left to the choice of the Prince. After visiting the Empress, his Royal Highness inspected the ducal palace and others of the many splendid monuments of this interesting city; the weather, however, being far from propitious. On the following day the Prince honoured the Consul-General, Mr. Perry, by accepting lunch at his house, and, after having visited many interesting objects, churches, monuments, &c., returned to the Osborne, on board of which he continued to reside during his stay. The Consul-General and Captain Chamer, R.N., had the honour of dining with his Royal Highness on board that vessel. This morning early the Prince left Venice in excellent health, on board the Osborne, for Pola. His Royal Highness and all the gentlemen of his suite expressed themselves highly gratified with their visit."

TRICK MOURNERS.—A bird-collector died in Paris lately. A trait of sagacity on his part was to ensure the attendance of the jackdaws of the Louvre to his funeral, which he effected in the following manner:—His residence was on the Quai Voltaire, and for the last seven years of his life he always placed on his balcony, exactly at three o'clock in the afternoon, several plates of meat cut in small pieces. The jackdaws were most punctual in their attendance. He had therefore only to give directions in his will that his funeral should take place at three precisely. The jackdaws came that day as usual, and if he had wished to have real mourners he certainly succeeded, for, as their usual meal had not been prepared, they were loud in their lamentations, to the amusement of all the friends who attended his obsequies.

FRENCH GENDARMES.—A story is current in France of two gendarmes meeting a young girl in the forest of St. Germain, who sought their protection because, she said, she had some money about her, and that she had come out to meet her lover. The gendarmes are reported to have murdered the girl, and robbed her; afterwards they captured the girl's lover, and accused him of the murder. As they dragged him through the forest they met a poacher, whom they arrested. He had seen the crime committed, and denounced them, and the money was found upon them, with other proofs of their guilt.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES, 1862-3.—The total of the effective and non-effective services amounts to £15,322,870, against a total for last year of £15,243,163, showing a net increase of £79,707. It is to be observed, however, that in the present year's estimates is included an expenditure of £985,500 on account of men for service in India, which will be repaid by the Indian Government; and that in last year's total, as given above, is included the expense (£699,000) of the troops sent to Canada.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Almost the sole topics of conversation in Paris are the debate in the Senate on the Address and the letter of the Emperor to General Montauban, both of which will be found noticed elsewhere. The latter subject seems to have given rise to a good deal of animadversion adverse to the views of the Emperor. A demonstration of workmen was attempted near the Bastille on Monday evening, partly against "extravagant expenditure" and partly in honour of Prince Napoleon, whom the populace describe as a "brave fellow." The movement was suppressed. The students of the Quartier Latin have also made a demonstration of approval of Prince Napoleon's speech, and altogether the bold attitude taken up by his Imperial Highness seems to have gained him golden opinions from all but the reactionary or priest party.

Intelligence from Cochinchina states that nearly all the provinces had submitted to Admiral Bonard.

ITALY.

In the Chamber of Deputies, on Monday, Baron Ricasoli, in answer to a question, said that he had just received a report of insults offered to the Italian Consul at Malta by some reactionary adherents of the Bourbon party. He had requested explanations upon the matter from the English Government and had claimed protection for Italian subjects. The ancient friendship of England for Italy was a guarantee that ample satisfaction would be given.

The Capitular Vicar and the clergy of Messina have signed a respectful address to the Pope setting forth the necessity of a separation between his temporal and spiritual power. The address expresses confidence that the Pope will accept the wise propositions of the Emperor of the French and of the King of Italy. The clergy throughout the whole of Sicily will probably follow the example set them by their brethren at Messina.

PORTUGAL.

A new Ministry has been constituted, and is formed as follows:—President, the Marquis de Loulé; War, Viscount Sa da Bandeira; Public Works, Senhor Horta; Interior, Senhor Braancamp; Justice, Senhor da Silva; Finance, Senhor d'Avila; Marine, Senhor Mendez Real. The members of the new Cabinet are of the same party as the preceding one.

The Infante Dom Augusto is quite convalescent. On the 16th ult. Lisbon was visited by a terrific thunderstorm. The lightning struck a Portuguese bark and cargo lighter in the harbour. The former had to be beached in order to be saved; the latter sank and her crew were drowned. Several buildings in the city have also suffered from the storm.

AUSTRIA.

Upon the anniversary of the promulgation of the Constitution the Emperor in person conferred upon Baron von Schmerling, Minister of State, the Grand Cross of the Leopold Order. It was accompanied with an autograph letter recognising his services.

The Charter of the National Bank has been renewed for a term of twenty-five years. The Government will obtain in return an unredemable loan at 2 per cent.

The Reichsrath has refused to allow trial by jury in prosecutions against the press.

PRUSSIA.

It having been stated that the King had signed a document which amounted to a virtual recognition of the kingdom of Italy, some Continental journals deny that the Prussian Government had decided upon immediately taking such a course. Russia, it is said, having been consulted on the subject, has declined to recognise the new kingdom; and Prussia has accordingly resolved to postpone her recognition. Other journals, however, represent the recognition by Prussia as about to be immediately and formally proclaimed.

In reference to the German question, Count Bernstorff, in a recent sitting of a Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, said:—

The point of view from which the Government regards this question is exhibited in the well-known recent notes. The Government of the day recognises that the necessity of the union of German States under one single head in military and diplomatic affairs is bound up with Parliamentary representation. But, as the realisation of such a union depends upon negotiations, it is impossible to enter into further details respecting its extent.

The Government recognises that the Chamber is at present called upon to express an opinion respecting this question, and will welcome a declaration in accordance with its own views. It especially finds support of its endeavours in the proposals of the Gradow party. The motion of the party of progress, although harmonising in direction with that of the Gradow party, is based upon assumptions in point of principle which the Government is unable to adopt.

RUSSIA.

An Imperial decree has been promulgated granting religious freedom and exemption from taxation and military service to immigrants settling in Russia.

POLAND.

Advices from Warsaw state that an ordinance of the Governor of Poland has been issued, ordering that neither judicial investigation nor arrest for offences committed prior to the state of siege shall in future take place. On the occasion of the opening of the churches in Warsaw the police and military were drawn up before the church doors, and the squares were turned into camps, with cannon and artillery in readiness to act on a moment's notice. Fortunately, all passed off peaceably. The address of the new Archbishop at the opening of the cathedral was so eulogistic of the Czar, and Ultramontane in its spirit as to call forth more than one exclamation of contempt, and, amidst much uproar, the greater part of the congregation left the building.

GREECE.

The military insurrection at Nauplia appears to have been a very serious affair. The movement was initiated by the military, and was afterwards joined in by the civilians, the government of the town being handed over to the latter. At the head of the Provisional Government was a Judge, and several advocates were members. Similar movements are reported from other places in the kingdom, and the demonstrations seem mainly directed against the Queen and her Bavarian favourites. The Greek Chambers had assembled at Athens and passed a resolution of devotion to the reigning dynasty. Troops were immediately dispatched against Nauplia, and, according to an official despatch, defeated the insurgents outside the town, which caused much discouragement to those within. A telegram published in the Paris papers states that the insurgents in the citadel of Nauplia had demanded to capitulate, and that their capitulation will close the insurrection. It is supposed that the King will change the Ministry and then dissolve the Chamber.

CHINA.

The rebels have captured the cities of Ningpo and Hangchow, and committed atrocious massacres. Ningpo was the source from which Hangchow received its supplies, and so long as the former held out there was little chance of the latter being taken. The rebel chiefs accordingly directed their attacks upon Ningpo, which was abandoned in a most cowardly manner by the Imperial authorities and troops. Mr. Harvey, the British Consul at Shanghai, insisted that the side of the city of Ningpo, where the European merchants and others resided, should not be molested. This was conceded by the rebels, and this part of the city afforded a refuge for many of the fugitive Chinese; but still immense numbers were sacrificed, the streets being literally strewn with dead. The fate of Ningpo, however, sealed that of Hangchow, which fell, according to Chinese report, on the 28th of December. Some fears were entertained for the safety of Shanghai.

In other respects the intelligence from China is satisfactory.

INDIA.

In Calcutta public attention was directed to the proceedings of the new Legislative Council, the first sitting of which took place on the 22nd. The composition of the Assembly—a mixture of Europeans and Asiatics, the latter in their peculiar Oriental costumes—had a very peculiar effect. Some very successful experiments in cotton cultivation had been brought to a successful conclusion.

THE FRENCH SENATE.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.—A STORMY SCENE.

The debate in the French Senate on the Address commenced on Thursday week. The principal speaker was Count de Segur d'Aguesseau, who attacked the management of affairs by Count de Persigny, especially instancing the suppression of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which he characterised as a gross abuse of power; and also the protection accorded to a ribald and irreligious press, the tone of which, he asserted, showed an organised plan to create hatred and contempt of everything connected with the Roman Catholic religion, and yet none of those papers had received a single warning. It was the duty of the Senate, said the Count, to point out the dangers of the situation to the Emperor, in order that he may, whilst it is yet time, prevent M. le Comte de Persigny becoming the Polignac of the Empire. These remarks called forth loud cries of "Order!" and a scene of much excitement ensued.

On Friday M. de Persigny replied to the attack made on him by Count de Segur; and, referring to the Legitimist champion having applied to him the name of Count Polignac, pointed out the wide distinction between a Minister of a Government the result of universal suffrage and one which was based on the principle of Divine right.

The next speaker was M. Pietri, who contrived to excite great indignation among the clericals by attacking the French episcopacy. Next came M. de Larochejaquelein, who denounced the attacks of the Democratic press against the Pope. On Saturday M. Baroche replied to the attacks in certain journals against the Government, and was followed by Prince Napoleon, who dealt principally with the opinions expressed by M. de Larochejaquelein. The Prince said:—

The Marquis de Larochejaquelein has put forth a programme against revolution. I myself defend revolution, and am of opinion that it is necessary to give the press more liberty; but we differ on principles. There is but one justification for the existence of the Empire, and that is when it becomes an application of the principles of well understood revolution. It was not my intention (continued the Prince) to enter into a discussion on the paragraph relative to internal questions, but I am compelled to do so after the speech of M. le Marquis de Larochejaquelein. My object is not only to defend the Government, but also modern society, against such accusations. I look upon the speech of M. Larochejaquelein as the programme of a counter-revolution. I look upon the establishment of the Empire as due to the well-understood principles of revolution.

Prince Napoleon alluded to the incident of Monsignor Merode and General Goyon, and added, "That is where we must look for hatred for the name of Napoleon and for the name of France." Speaking of the idea of an hereditary power, the Prince quoted the words of the first Emperor, who said that his spirit would no longer be with his posterity on the day when they ceased to merit the love and confidence of a great nation. He recalled the return from Elba, when the Emperor traversed France in the midst of cries of "Down with the emigrants!" "Down with the nobles!" "Down with traitors!" At this point of the Prince's speech great tumult and agitation arose in the Senate and several demands were made that the speaker should be called to order. Many Senators believed that the Prince said, "Down with the priests!" mistaking the word "traitres" for "pretres." Prince Napoleon continued:—

To me the Empire signifies the glory of France abroad, the destruction of the treaties of 1815 within the limits of the forces and the resources of France, and the unity of Italy, which we have contributed to free. At home the glory of France is in the preservation of order by a complete system of wise and real liberties, comprising the liberty of the press and unlimited popular instruction, without religious congregations, and without institutions which would impose upon us a return to the bigotry of the middle ages.

Various Senators here rose and exclaimed—We have had enough about the Revolution.

The Marquis de Larochejaquelein—Bravo! bravo! Here we are again in full revolution! The avowal is worth knowing.

M. Barthe—Are these your views of revolution?

Prince Napoleon—Yes; I defend the Revolution, and am proud of it. We are revolutionists, honest revolutionists.

A Senator—There are no honest revolutionists who exclaim, "Down with society!"

Another Senator—This is not revolution, it is demagoguery.

Prince Napoleon was called to order by the President, who recommended him not to recall sad events in the history of the past.

Prince Napoleon—I shall not pay attention to the call to order, because I have a right to say in the French Senate that the return from Elba is not a sad recollection but a glory for our country.

The interruptions were now so numerous that the debate became perfectly confused.

M. le Baron de Lacrosse at last was allowed to speak—I had the honour of accompanying the Emperor Napoleon I. in a portion of his triumphal march from Elba to Paris. Never did the Emperor allow such anarchical, anti-social, and odious expressions as "Down with the nobles!" "Down with the priests!" If such horrible things were uttered, they were so by the worst enemies of the Imperial dynasty.

A somewhat stormy discussion, almost personal, ensued. Prince Napoleon endeavoured to enter into the whole Italian question, but was obliged to sit down. M. Billault, Minister without portfolio, then spoke. He said:—

I fully understand, gentlemen, the desire of the Senate to bring this discussion to a conclusion; and yet there is no one here present who would expect the Government to remain silent after what has been said. It could not allow that the character of constant moderation, wise foresight for the future, combining respect for all that is worthy in the past, which, in the opinion of the country, is one of the grand glories of the Imperial Government, should be misconstrued. Yes, gentlemen, the Empire is certainly the offspring of revolution, but it issued forth to become at the same time the propagator, the director, and the moderator. When France, in 1851, threw herself into the arms of the Emperor, as in the year VIII., she wished to get out of the sad position into which revolutionary excesses had thrown her; she asked him to save her, to restore to her that security and glory which were both compromised, and his first duty was, as he has often expressed it, to replace on its basis that social pyramid which revolutionary efforts had so often shaken.

After passing in review the various acts of the Emperor since his accession, M. Billault concluded as follows:—

Assuredly the Emperor does not deny the Revolution, but a pure, honest, conciliatory revolution, prudent and progressive, which, thanks to his support, will go round the world. I only ask one thing from the Senate: let it leave aside the agitations of a past period and come to the serious business of the present moment; let it not lose its valuable time in empty discussions, which are not of any service to anybody.

After the Achilles of the debate came the Thersites—after Prince Napoleon came the Marquis de Boissy, who spoke on Monday, and devoted his whole speech, as he did all his harangues of last Session, to a denunciation of England, and a lament that, instead of spending her money foolishly in the Crimean and Italian Wars, France had not disbursed her funds fruitfully and wisely in marching upon London. He expressed himself quite unable to comprehend why France should go about suppressing barbarities in China and Mexico, while England was allowed with impunity to torture the natives of India. He appealed to the memory of Waterloo, and declared that, "in the hope of reviving the national hatred, he would repeat again and again the execrable name. Waterloo! Waterloo! Waterloo!" shrieked M. de Boissy, which performance called forth a burst of merriment, and, indeed, did nearly the whole of the Marquis's speech. This singular harangue was replied to both by M. Billault and Prince Napoleon, who each deprecated the use of such language as M. de Boissy had applied to England, a Power with which France was on the most friendly terms.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

At the date of the last advices from America it was affirmed in the New York papers that the President had assumed the command of the army and navy; that, in conjunction with the Secretary for War, he now issues orders direct to the commanders of the Federal armies; that General McClellan was at the head of the army of the Potomac only; and that the latter, discontented with the President's measures, meditated resignation. Assertions and denials on these points were being bandied about among the papers, but probably there is no foundation for the rumours afloat.

General Burnside's expedition had taken possession of Roanoke Island and completely destroyed the Confederate fleet. On the 9th ult. the expedition attacked Elizabeth city, which the inhabitants evacuated. Elizabeth city was completely burnt, either by the inhabitants or by the shells from the Federal fleet. The Federals had occupied that city, and were advancing on Eden town. The engagement was severe. It is reported that there were 1000 killed and wounded on each side. The Southern journals consider the loss of these positions as very serious, and are said to admit that the only impediments in the way of an advance upon Norfolk are the "swamps, marshes, and sickness"—probably three very effective enemies.

The Federals have seized the bridge across the Tennessee River, thus cutting off the main communication between Memphis and Columbus. General Grant was about to attack Fort Donnellson with eight batteries of artillery. The place was reported to be occupied by 8000 Confederates. It was rumoured that the Confederates have evacuated Bowling Green.

Commander Dupont states that the only entrance to Charleston now practicable is through the Swash Channel and a portion of Maffit's Channel.

General Stone, who commanded at Ball's Bluff, had been arrested and confined in Fort Lafayette.

The House of Representatives had passed the Senate Bill for the issue of 10,000,000 dols. in demand notes. The Senate Finance Committee was to report on the bill for the issue of 150,000,000 dols. of Treasury notes as legal tender, and making the interest on Government bonds payable in coin. The Assistant-Treasurers would receive on deposit Treasury notes in sums of not less than 500 dols., and will name interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum on such deposits. These deposits must not at any time exceed 25,000,000 dols. It is provided that the duties and the proceeds of the sales of Government property shall be set apart for the payment in coin of the interest on the United States' debt, and to purchase 1 per cent of the entire debt yearly, which will be set apart as a sinking fund, the interest of which fund will be applied to the payment of the public debt.

The Defence Committee in Congress were expected to report in favour of the establishment of a national foundry and depot of arms at Chicago, naval depôts on Lake Michigan, Erie, and Ontario, and the construction of fortifications along the northern frontier.

A bill was to be introduced into Congress giving the President power to forbid the exportation during the present rebellion of any commodity the loss of which would be detrimental to the public interest.

Mr. Sumner has introduced into the Senate a series of resolutions involving the abolition of slavery in the rebel States. His object was evidently to put the question before the country in such a manner as would lead to its general discussion.

A correspondence between Mr. Lincoln and Mr. ex-Secretary Cameron had been published, from which it appears that the latter enjoys the President's undiminished confidence, and that he retired from the Secretaryship of War by his own wish.

IRELAND.

FATHER DALY.—This rev. gentleman has not fared so well at Rome as he expected. The Bishop of Galway has been informed by the authorities there that it rests with him to restore Father Daly or not. In the meantime the rev. gentleman is on his way home. If he is to be reinstated in his office as parish priest he must bow his neck to episcopal authority and eschew secular affairs. It will be hard on the spirit of the aged priest to do that. If he chooses to remain contumacious, he has ample means to enable him to live in independence and silence.

SHIPWRECK AND LOSS OF LIFE.—A shipwreck, with the loss of nine lives, has occurred on the Wexford coast, near Arklow. The Fortia, a barque of 500 tons, left Liverpool on Saturday, with a cargo bound for the Brazils. She struck on the fatal Blackwater bank, eight miles from Arklow. She capsized and sank on Monday night. The crew got into the boats, and, being beaten about for some time, were driven ashore near Mizenhead. The boats were upset in the surf of a heavy sea, and swept back into the seething waters, when nine men were drowned. The captain and four men fortunately escaped, having been carried by the returning waves high upon the shore. The vessel and her cargo are said to have been insured.

DR. CULLEN ON THE POOR RELIEF BILL.—Dr. Cullen, in a letter addressed to the Catholic clergy and laity of Dublin, analyses the Irish Poor Relief Bill lately introduced into the House of Commons by Sir R. Peel, in which (says the reverend doctor) "that hon. Baronet proposes to tax our churches, our chapels, our poor schools, our asylums for indigence and destitution, and even our last resting-places—our burial-grounds and cemeteries." The measure is warmly denounced, and the strongest constitutional opposition to it is counselled.

SCOTLAND.

BREACH OF PROMISE ACTION AGAINST A LADY.—In the Glasgow Sheriff's Court an action was recently heard in which a lady was sued for damages for breach of promise of marriage. Both parties are "professionals," employed as singers in one of the saloons in the city. The defendant, who is passing fair, appeared rather amused with her position, and alleged that she had never given any formal and real promise to the pursuer. He had bothered her for some time with protestations of affection, following her about the greenroom of the saloon in which she sang, and other places, and at last she had, after much urgent solicitation from him to let him "put in the cries," told him to go and do as he liked. She did not know that "putting in the cries" meant putting up the bans, and on becoming aware of what the pursuer had done, her father, at her request, put a stop to any further proceedings in the matter, as she did not like pursuer well enough to marry him. The pursuer claimed £10 as a solatium, with a few odd expenses; but the Sheriff gave a decree for 6s. 6d., being half of the expenses of the action and half the costs.

LORD ABERDEEN AND HIS TENANCY.—The fact that the Earl of Aberdeen has given permission to the tenants on his estates to shoot over the lands occupied by them has caused a considerable amount of discussion. The following are the terms of the permission and of the annexed conditions:—"Haddo House, Dec. 11, 1861. The bearer, —, is hereby authorised to shoot over the farm of —, as rented by him, during the seasons of eighteen hundred and sixty one and two, on the conditions specified. 1. This permission is only applicable to 1861 and 1862, and may be withdrawn at any time by the proprietor or his factor. 2. The proprietor reserves the fullest right of shooting for himself and his friends. 3. The party availing himself of this permission is expected to protect the ground from poachers, and to destroy all vermin, including rabbits."

THE LAW'S DELAY.—A return which, on the motion of Mr. Caird, has just been made to the House of Commons, describing the causes finally decided in the Court of Session in Scotland in 1860, shows that some of them had been in dependence for 16, 17, 19, 20, 24, and one for 31 years. It smacks of the good old times when Mackintosh, in "The Antiquary," could boast, "O, it's a beautiful thing to see how long and how carefully justice is considered in this country."

APPREHENSION OF AN ABERDEENSHIRE FORGER.—About ten days ago information was received at the Police Office in Liverpool that a farmer and cattle dealer, in an extensive way of business near Aberdeen, had absconded, he being charged with a numerous and systematic series of forgeries. The name of the culprit was given as James Low, and it was stated that he was believed to have proceeded to Liverpool, for the purpose of emigrating. After a careful investigation by the Liverpool detective police, a man answering the description of Low, but who gave the name of James Wilson, was discovered in a boarding-house in Union-street, and taken into custody on Saturday last. On searching him documents of various kinds, including bills for different amounts, were found which clearly identified him as a runaway cattle-dealer from Aberdeen. He had been residing at the boarding-house where he was found for better than a week, and had paid for his passage to Australia. He had only £12 or £14 on him when he was taken.

THE PROVINCES.

THE SHEFFIELD OUTRAGES.—The ruffians of Sheffield have extended their outrages, which were formerly directed against non-union tradesmen, to attacks on co-operative stores. As the committee of one of these societies were in consultation on Wednesday night, some miscreant fired a pistol-bullet through the window, which fortunately struck against an iron bar, or it would in all probability have hit the secretary. Instant search was made, but no trace could be found of the scoundrel.

THE HARTLEY PIT.—Men are now busily engaged in drawing the pumps and spears out of the Hartley Pit. It was supposed that the pumps were very much damaged, but this is not the case, as only some few are injured. It is not yet known whether the colliery will be opened out again or not, but it is generally believed that Lord Hastings will never allow the pit to remain drowned up. The large heap of the best coal is now being carted away to supply the widows and orphans.

MEETING OF DURHAM PITMEN.—A very numerous meeting of the pitmen connected with the collieries of the county of Durham was held in the Townhall of the city of Durham on Saturday last, for the purpose of considering the propriety of petitioning Parliament in favour of the double-shaft system, &c. Mr. Joseph Liddell moved a resolution in favour of petitioning Parliament to appoint a number of sub-inspectors, in addition to the present inspectors, from the class of intelligent practical pitmen, and to render it compulsory upon all coalowners under certain regulations to work their pits with double shafts. The motion was unanimously adopted. Messrs. George Macklevo, Robert Walton, William Robson, and Terence Casey afterwards spoke at considerable length in favour of the double-shaft system, and a petition embodying the views of the speakers was afterwards unanimously agreed to. Resolutions were also passed in favour of the establishment of a permanent fund of a national character for the relief of the widows and orphans of those who were killed by accidents in collieries.

ANOTHER FATAL COLLIERIES ACCIDENT.—Three more lives have been lost by an accident which occurred at one of the pits belonging to the Messrs. Darlington between Hawarden and King's Ferry. Three men, named Prince, Jones, and Weigh, were engaged in repairing the pit, standing on a suspended stage, when one of the connecting ropes broke, and the unfortunate men were precipitated down the pit into water about ten yards deep and were drowned. Two of the bodies have been recovered.

DISTRESS IN LANCASHIRE.—The amount of destitution in Blackburn and the districts in the Blackburn union may be estimated from the fact that 8434 persons were relieved last week. The cost of relief was £196 3s. 10d. Two-thirds of this large number belonged to Blackburn, and the remainder to Darwen and Oswaldtwistle. To this computation must be added the relief administered from the unofficial relief fund. Last year, at this time, 1581 persons were in receipt of relief at Blackburn. At present great depression exists in Preston. The distress amongst the operative portion of the population gradually increases, and none can foresee a change for the better. Nearly all the mills are either absolutely stopped or only running short time. About 1000 operatives and others are employed as labourers by the parish authorities on the Moor, a large plot of land near Preston; many more are employed on the marsh, and some are engaged in the stoneyard of the union. The workhouses are nearly all full. In some instances they are overcrowded, and the guardians have been obliged to make extra accommodation. Several soup-kitchens have been established in the town, and many thousands of quarts are distributed weekly. A general fund for the relief of the necessitous poor has likewise been raised. The operatives in some of the mills running full or half time are also subscribing towards the relief of their unemployed fellow-labourers.

COLLIERS' STRIKE IN YORKSHIRE.—A strike of coal-miners in the Adwalton, Morley, and Gildersome district of the West Riding of Yorkshire has now lasted more than three weeks, and extends to twelve pits, at which between 700 and 800 men and some hundred boys were employed before the present dispute arose. Both masters and men appear inflexible, the former in their adherence to their proposition to take off the ten per cent advance of wages (equal to about 6d. per day) which they gave to the miners on the 1st of January, 1861, and the latter in their determination to resist the reduction. The consequence is, of course, serious loss to both parties. The men on strike and their families are supported by union funds and money obtained by canvassing.

MANCHESTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.—Certain extensions of this institution, which have been in progress for some time, are now finished. The addition consisted in extending the back part of the building 24 feet for a printing-office; additional play-room, sewing-room, and assistants' room; and also to increase the size of the schoolroom and dormitories, now making each 77ft. 6in. by 27ft. 6in. The object in view was not to accommodate a larger number of pupils, but to give more space to the existing inmates, with a freer circulation of air. This has been accomplished by a system of ventilating shafts (as cornices) round the rooms and conducted into flues, the air of which is rarified by the heat of the smoke-shaft adjoining. The dormitories have also louvers placed in the roofs; and the cubical space for each individual has been increased from 439ft. to 630ft., making a perceptible difference in the salubrity of these apartments. Messrs. Southern, Salford, were the builders; Mr. James Redford, of Ridgefield, was the architect. The new school for infants, which was opened in September, 1860, has proved a most successful scheme, and established the fact that it is practicable to train deaf-mutes, morally and intellectually, at a much earlier age than that at which they were previously received into any public institution. The deaf-mutes of Lancashire and the adjoining counties now enjoy more advantages, through the liberality of Manchester and its neighbourhood, than in any other locality. They are trained and taught during infancy, instructed in the ordinary branches of education during childhood, and assisted in acquiring a trade to procure their livelihood after they leave the institution. Their moral and religious welfare is also provided for in after life by the adult society.

THE EXPEDITION TO MEXICO.

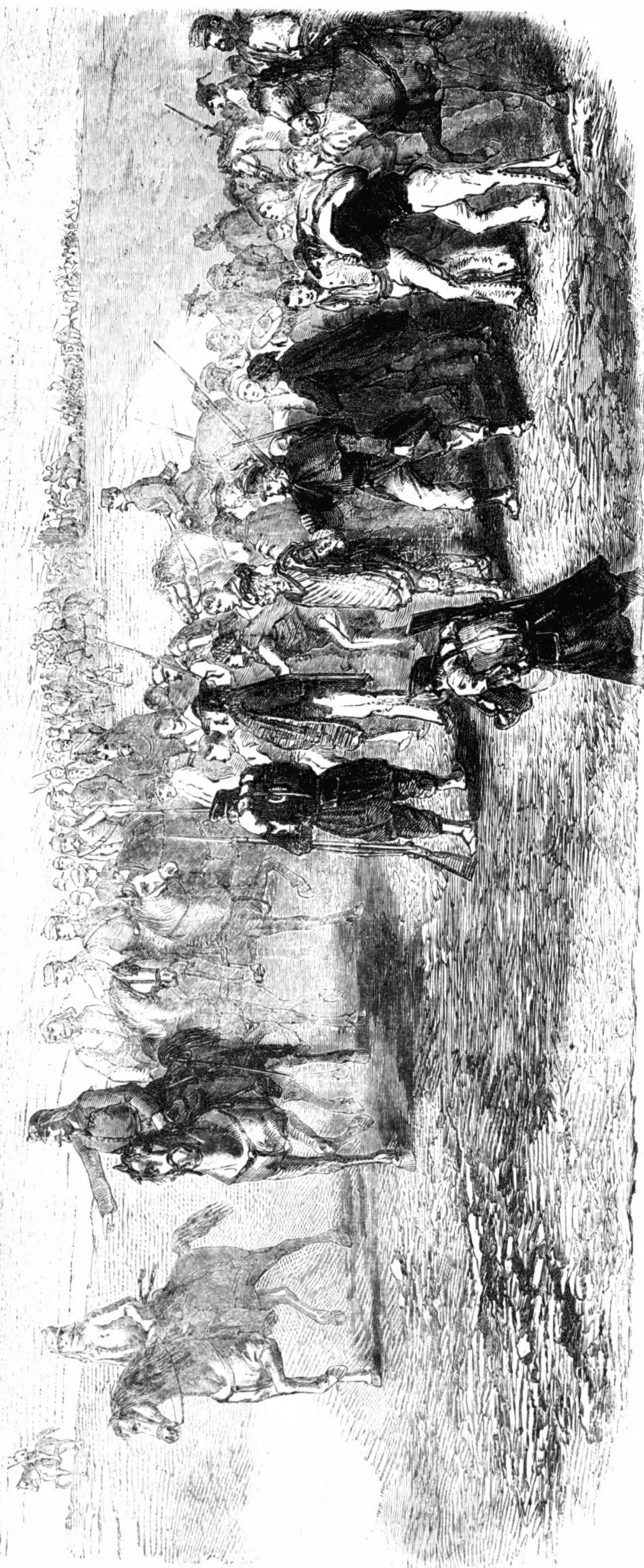
An event of some importance was accomplished in Mexico before the arrival of the French Admiral and General Prim. General Gasset had ordered a reconnoitring party to operate in the environs of Vera Cruz, and while he had under his command some 400 men he met with no more than half that number of Mexicans, with whom some shots were exchanged. During the first three weeks of the occupation of the city Spain alone was represented there; but by the 6th of January the flags of the three Powers were floating on the ramparts and on the fort of San Juan d'Ulloa.

The French squadron, the greater part of the British, and the vessel which conveyed General Prim, arrived before the city on the 7th of January, and the debarkation of troops and material of war commenced at once. The French force consisted of fourteen vessels, carrying about 300 cannons and 5000 men. The troops who were landed consisted of an effective body of 3000 men. Of these forces there will be to take part in the field operations a body of fusiliers; artillery, served by sailors; a body of infantry, and 500 zouaves, who were being embarked at Mostaganen. These zouaves will form a reserve, under the direction of the Vice-Admiral.

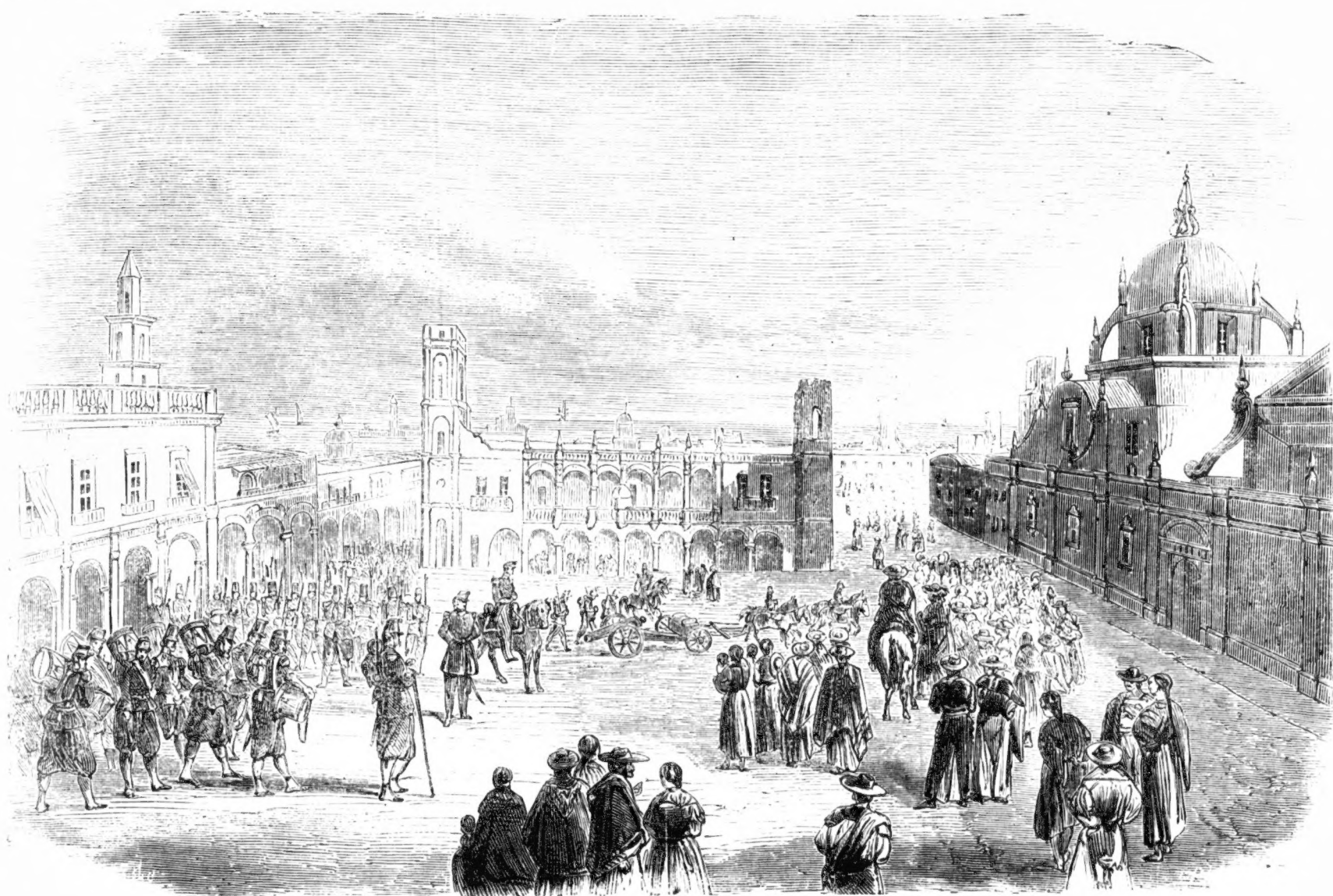
We have advices from Vera Cruz to the 15th of January. There had been landed in all of the allied Powers 16,000 men, but there were already before that city and the capital 50,000 Mexicans, principally between Puebla and Chihuahuita. There had been several insults and outrages committed on the Spanish residents of Puebla. The Mexican Government has increased the taxes 25 per cent, and established an income tax of 2 per cent.

The three allied Powers addressed a note to Uraga, asking permission to encamp at Terjera and Medellin, which was granted. On Jan. 11 the French zouaves and other troops were quartered at Terjera, about nine miles from the city. They marched along the railroad, accompanied by Prim and the English Admirals, and saw but a few troops of the enemy, being the advance of General Zaragoza's force. On the 13th one Spanish battalion, three French companies, and one English company went to Medellin. On the 14th Brigadier-General Milans del Bosch was sent with despatches to Juarez, accompanied by a naval officer from the French fleet and one from the English. They bore to Juarez the ultimatum of the allied Powers. They went on horseback to Jalapa, where they were to take the diligence to Mexico. Their return was anxiously awaited.

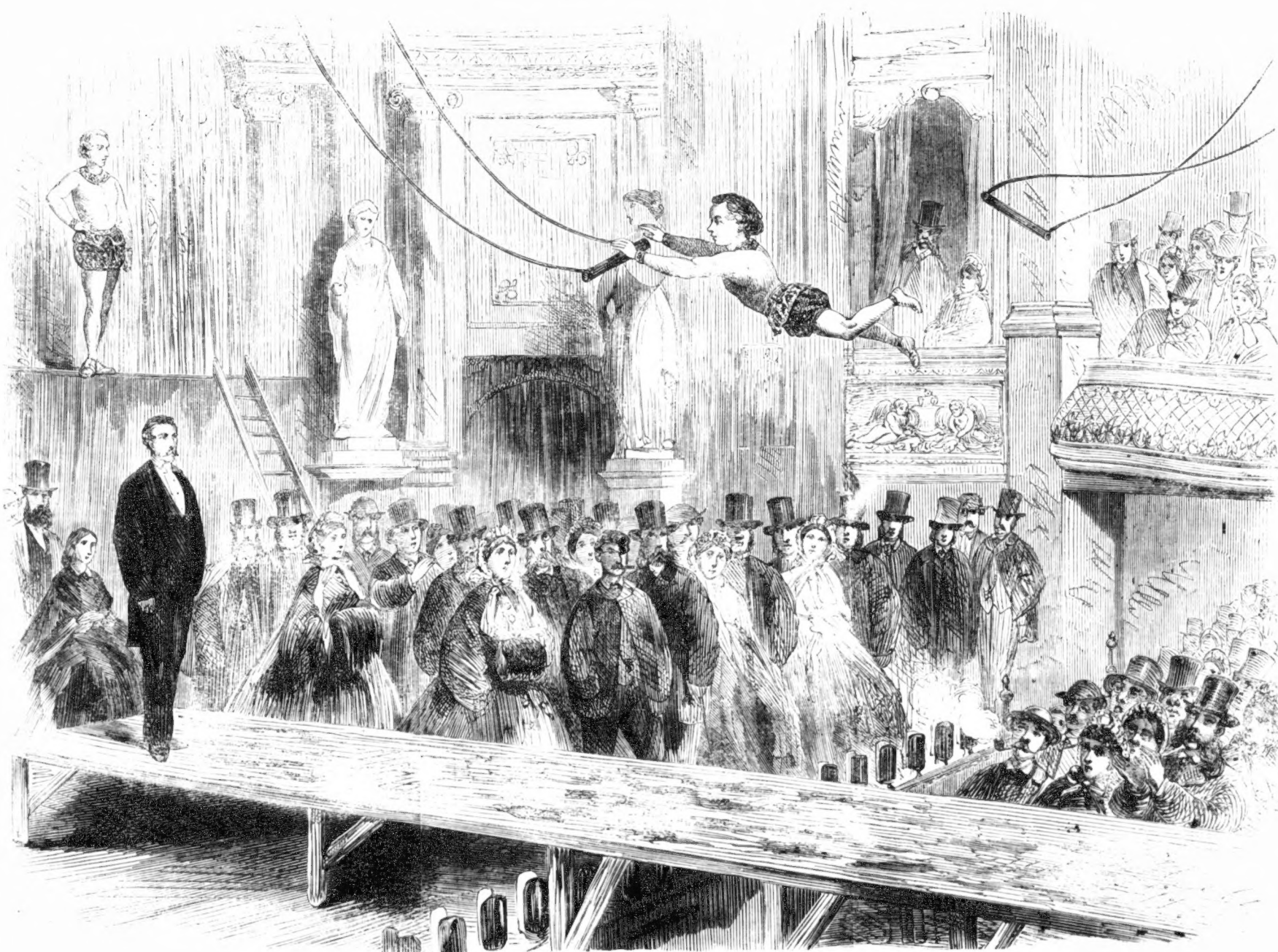
On Jan. 23 Miramon sailed from Havannah in the English mail-steamship Avon under an assumed name, intending to be transferred at Vera Cruz to a schooner which was said to be awaiting him, and in which he hoped to effect a landing somewhere on the coast. The Admiralty agent who went in the same steamer said that he should immediately on arrival at Vera Cruz go on board an English vessel of war, the commander of which he was sure would arrest Miramon on account of the robbery of the English Legation at Mexico. Miramon went accompanied by sixteen Mexicans. Santa Anna was expected to arrive at Havannah by the next steamer from St. Thomas, and would leave immediately for Mexico. It was believed that he would not be allowed to land.



THE ALLIED INTERVENTION IN MEXICO.—SPANISH TROOPS ON A RECONNOITRING EXPEDITION IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF VERA CRUZ



ENTRY OF FRENCH TROOPS INTO VERA CRUZ.



THE JUVENILE PROFESSORS OF THE TRAPEZE AT THE OXFORD MUSIC HALL.

THE "SENSATION" PERFORMERS AT THE OXFORD MUSIC HALL.

GYMNASTICS seem at present as essential to the happiness of the patrons of music-halls as are operatic selections; and Messrs. Morton and Stanley, as mentioned in our last week's Number, have concluded an engagement with two youthful performers on the trap, named Henri and Pfau, who lately gained great renown at the Cirque Napoleon, Paris. Whether these youths are more "wonderful" performers than Leotard in the same line or not must, to some extent, be a matter for individual judgment. That, for boys, the feats achieved by them are very extraordinary indeed cannot be questioned; and it is not impossible that if they ever attain maturity their exhibitions will become more marvellous still. But we adhere to the opinion we expressed last week, that it is very problematical whether they ever will reach man's estate, the risks they nightly run of having their necks or limbs dislocated being, in our judgment, too great to make it at all likely that they will live unimpaired to an age when their physical powers shall be fully developed. In the meantime, their performance is a very remarkable one, and those who delight in intense sensations had better "be there to see." For our part, though we like to see the human frame developed to its fullest capacity, we care not to witness so great a chance of its being destroyed altogether. That, however, is a matter of taste. The combats of the gladiators, as well as the contests between human beings and wild beasts, were indispensable to the comfort of the Romans under the Emperors; an auto-da-fé was, and bull-fighting is still, a favourite amusement in Spain; executions and prize-fights are popular luxuries in England; and perhaps if an acrobat were advertised to break his neck nightly at the Oxford or elsewhere the crush for admission would be something tremendous. Those who have a predilection for such exhibitions as that of the boys Henri and Pfau could scarcely find anything more to their fancy than the one provided at the Oxford Music Hall.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 175.

THE DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

THAT unfortunate person, the deceased (jocosely called in the House the diseased) wife's sister, has again in piteous tones presented her distressing case before the House, and begged to be allowed to marry her widowed brother-in-law; and her proxy on the occasion—Mr. Monckton Milnes—succeeded in getting a bill to enfranchise this poor lady read a second time. But we cannot give any hope that the bill will ultimately pass this Session. Either on going into Committee or at its last stage it will probably be smashed by an adverse majority; but, if it should successfully run the gauntlet through the Commons, its doom in the Lords is inevitable. Poor lady! For six years, every year, she has been thus tantalised by having hopes raised and then being sent back to mourn her unhappy fate. Mr. Dillwyn used to be her champion; then Lord Bury took up arms in her favour; and now Mr. Monckton Milnes appears in the lists with her glove in his cap. But she will not get enfranchised this Session, we fear. It is very hard. In every country in Europe these marriages are sanctioned. The Jews, who are surely the best exponents of Hebrew law, declare that these marriages have never been forbidden, but rather encouraged, by their Church. The New Testament is silent upon the subject; but still this arbitrary law forbids the bans. How is this? Well, it is obvious to all who have considered the matter that it is a Church question; the Church has decreed against these marriages, and the Church is determined to maintain its decree. But in the end this law—like all laws not founded upon eternal fact and Nature's laws, which are God's laws—will have to go its way. Originally there were no restrictions upon marriage; men used to marry their own sisters. But it was soon discovered that, as such marriages deteriorated the race, they were contrary to Nature's laws, and they were then declared to be forbidden by God. This was the old way of discovering God's law in such matters. And some day we shall come back to this way again; and, as marriage with a wife's sister is not marriage with a blood relation, and can produce no mischief, the prohibition will be removed. But this will not happen yet, not till it becomes a recognised fact that Philosophy and Religion are not opponents, but twin sisters, and that true Religion enacts no law that Nature does not sanction.

HER CHAMPION.

Mr. Monckton Milnes in introducing his bill made no speech; he wisely reserved his powder until his opponents had expended theirs. But, in truth, when his turn came his firing was not effective. Indeed, Mr. Monckton Milnes is not gifted with qualities for a Parliamentary fight. He is an accomplished gentleman, has literary taste, and writes musical verses; but he lacks vigour, muscle, and thwack, and all that we mean by the figurative word "metal," for a logical battle. And he is withal so courteous and polite that apparently he would much rather forego an advantage than wound the feelings of an opponent. Neither is he eloquent. With his pen he can discourse eloquent music, but in speaking he hesitates for words, and his sentences are loose and ill-formed. Such is Mr. Monckton Milnes—one more proof that a good writer is not always a good speaker.

HER OPPONENT.

Mr. Walpole was the principal opponent of the bill. He, as member for Cambridge University, is a quasi representative of the Church; and it was therefore fitting, when Church authority was attacked, that he should rise and defend his client. Mr. Walpole is the most prepossessing speaker in the House. He has a handsome person, a face radiant with goodness, a voice musical as Apollo's lute, and a most easy and graceful action. And then, how eloquent he is! Not even Gladstone has a more copious flow of words. It is simply inexhaustible. But then, alas! it is eloquence "not flowing directly a-whither, like a river, but spreading itself everywhere in inextinguishable currents and regurgitations, like a lake or a sea." Cambridge is the great mathematical University, and its members ought to be able reasoners; and one of them, Mr. Selwyn, though dry, is certainly logical; but Mr. Walpole is not. Carlyle says of John Sterling, "I likened him often in my banterings to sheet lightning, and reproachfully prayed that he would concentrate himself into a bolt, and rive the mountain barriers for us, instead of merely playing on them and irradiating them." And we have often been reminded of this passage when we have been listening to Mr. Walpole. Every now and then he seems to be going to say something to the point—"to concentrate himself into a bolt and rive the mountain barriers"—but it ends in nothing. No invincible logical bolt is hurled; there is only a fitful flash which just lights up the subject, and hardly that; but nothing more. And then, how provoking and tantalising a speaker he is to those who do not know him! He will draw himself to his full height, he will put on his gravest manner and his most serious look, and will call your special attention to what he is about to say in tones so solemn that, unless you are used to his speaking, you will think that you are about to hear some great thought—some truth never yet before uttered—some argument irresistible, that will at once settle the question and close the debate. But, alas! when the thing does come you recognise it at once as one of the oldest of fallacies, one which has been refuted a hundred times, or a platitude so dull, so insipid, so universally acknowledged, that you are tempted to laugh in the speaker's face, and the old fable of the serpent irresistibly comes into your mind about the mountain that laboured, and when the lookers on expected a giant as the result of its throes there crept out a mouse; and yet Mr. Walpole is, within his own range, an able man. For a time he was chairman of the Great Western, and showed no lack of ability in that arduous post, whilst in the House, on all questions of order, and as Chairman of Committee up stairs, he is quite an authority. How is it, then, that as a speaker he fails? We cannot tell. Anomalies of this kind everywhere meet us, especially in the House of Commons, and we

will not attempt to explain them. There is, however, one thing that Mr. Walpole possesses, which is above all price—and that is, a character for high-toned honour and all that is generally understood by the term "goodness," which has never been excelled. Indeed, so highly esteemed is he that it is rumoured that in the next Parliament he will be the Conservative candidate for the speakership, and that the Liberal chiefs will not venture to oppose him. And a capital Speaker he would make; for he has a good presence, excellent temper, courteous suavity of manners, a competent knowledge of the forms of the House, whilst in such high official position his wide-flowing eloquence would be restrained within due bounds. May we live to see him in the Speaker's chair!

THE DUEL THAT WAS TO HAVE BEEN FOUGHT.

We thought that it would be so—we foreboded mischief on Friday night. "Mannikin traitor" was a hard phrase; and when we saw "The O'Donoghue" suddenly rise, immediately after this phrase fell burning from the lips of Sir Robert Peel, and leave the House, we augured mischief. We felt assured that no Irish gentleman would quietly swallow such an insult as that, and that he was gone out to look for a friend that he might without delay bring the rash and impetuous Irish Secretary to account. We were not at all surprised, therefore, to discover on Monday afternoon, when we went down to the House that there was excitement in the lobby, nor that the Sergeant-at-Arms had given orders to get the prison ready, fires to be lighted, and the chamber made otherwise comfortable to receive a distinguished guest. And we soon discovered that what we had apprehended had really occurred—that The O'Donoghue had sent Sir Robert Peel a challenge. However, it was a comfortable reflection that, at all events, no blood would be shed. This was clear, for it was evident from the preparations of the prison that the possibly fatal encounter had been arrested, and that, if the worst came to the worst, all that could happen was the imprisonment in durance vile of the challenger until he should expiate his sin against the high privileges and laws of the House by due submission and apology. Indeed, it was plain that no anxiety was mixed with the excitement. Laughter rather than sorrow prevailed, and jokes passed about instead of lamentations. For example, here is one joke which was highly relished, and caused not a little merriment:—"Latest Intelligence. The O'Donoghue and Major Gavin, Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Scully, went into the field. All fought and all were killed. Ireland is profoundly 'tranquil.'"

THE SCENE.

As soon as the House was open members came down in unusual numbers. Sir Robert marched in with his accustomed stride soon after four and took his seat upon the Treasury bench. The O'Donoghue came some quarter of an hour later. The honourable member for Tipperary did not seem at all excited, but just slid into his place below the gangway on the Opposition side of the House in his usual manner, and there he sat, surrounded by a knot of his Irish friends, evidently quite calm and collected, until the time came for his trial and judgment. He is a fine, personable man is The O'Donoghue. He is tall, well made, and has rather a handsome face; and there is nothing of the fire-eater in his appearance; on the contrary, he is, for an Irishman, remarkably quiet and grave, and seemingly cool and unexcitable, and moves about with that graceful ease and dignity which mark the gentleman. Sir Robert by no means appeared so well at ease, but was restless and fidgety; but then he is always so. Indeed, Sir Robert, from his bearing and manner, and extreme impetuosity and impulsiveness, would seem to be more Irish than the Irishman. And there these two antagonists sat for twenty minutes or more, the House the while in silence, and the Speaker lolling easily in his chair, unemployed; for it so happened that there was little private business that day; all there was, was finished by ten minutes after four, and public business does not begin until half-past, so that for twenty minutes the House sat in silence, on the tiptoe of expectation for the coming scene.

LORD PALMERSTON RISES.

But at half-past four Lord Palmerston rose. For Lord Palmerston's speech we must refer our readers to the reports in the papers. Suffice it to say that the noble Lord introduced the subject with due decorum and gravity as befitted the occasion, and with all his usual perspicacity and cleverness. But, grave and solemn as was the occasion, there was evidently a feeling that there was something humorous in the scene as his Lordship proceeded. Perhaps the House remembered the gallant and gay character of the noble Lord in former times, and how he once described himself as "a judicious bottleholder," and contrasted his past pugnacity with his present position. But, however this may have been, it was quite clear that a sense of the ludicrous had, somehow, stolen over the House, and a burst of laughter, long and loud, in which the noble Lord himself could hardly help joining, broke forth when he announced that he had advised Sir Robert that, if any gentleman should call upon him with a hostile message, he should at once refer the bearer to him (the noble Lord); and when he added, with a broad smile upon his countenance, "not, however, with a view of making preliminary arrangements," the House was shaken with merriment, which was again renewed when the noble Lord proceeded to say, "I saw the gentleman that was sent this morning." And, indeed, there was something exceedingly ludicrous in the picture of the noble Lord going out in the cold grey of the morning as second to his impulsive and impetuous Irish Secretary which at once rose up before the mind of the House.

MR. SPEAKER SERMONS THE CRIMINAL.

When Lord Palmerston sat down Mr. Speaker rose, and in dignified manner and in sonorous tones thus he spake:—"It having been brought under the notice of the House that a distinct breach of the privileges of the House has been committed by the honourable member for Tipperary, it becomes my duty immediately to call upon the honourable member to express his regret for this breach of privilege, and to assure the House that the matter shall proceed no farther." And then there was a pause, the members all turning their eyes upon The O'Donoghue to see whether he would answer promptly the Speaker's call; and when it was seen that he resolutely kept his seat we began to feel anxious. "What! does he mean to be refractory? Is the prison, then, to have its expected tenant?"

MAJOR GAVIN EXPLAINS.

But see! Some one rises on the Opposition benches. Ah! it is Major Gavin, "the friend of the challenger." Major Gavin is member for Limerick city, and for many years was in the 16th Lancers, and there is not in the House a more soldierly-looking man than he. He stands 6ft. high, has a florid countenance, no whiskers, but still keeps up his military moustache, and when he rose all the eyes of the House were concentrated upon him. Our private opinion is that here there was a breach of order. Mr. Speaker had called upon The O'Donoghue, and ought not, as we humbly think, to have allowed any one to speak until The O'Donoghue had answered the call. But let that pass. Major Gavin rose, and he was allowed to speak, and uncommonly well he stated his case, boldly, frankly, and in many tones, and he carried the House with him. But here, again, let us notice in passing a curious circumstance which few seem to be aware of—to wit, that Major Gavin himself had committed a breach of privilege in bearing a hostile message, and, as in his speech he confessed his sin, he, too, ought to have been required to make atonement. But let this pass also. The rules of the House are proverbially not strictly administered now. We cannot further notice the gallant Major's speech, nor is it worth while to remark upon Mr. Speaker's address that followed, which was rendered necessary by the breach of order that had been allowed.

THE O'DONOGHUE.—THE DEVOUEMENT.

When Mr. Speaker sat down The O'Donoghue at length rose; and it is not too much to say that no speaker ever rose to address the

House with more coolness, self-possession, and ease. Indeed, there can be no doubt that this is no wild, excitable, impulsive Irishman, but a very cool hand, and exceedingly plucky withal. Now, it may be doubted whether The O'Donoghue ought to have been allowed to harangue the House at all; at all events, not in the manner in which he did. Old Lenthall would probably have peremptorily stopped him, reminded him that he was an offender, and that he must apologise, or, at all events, lower his tone. And so would blunt old Sir Fletcher Norton, who expressed a hope in his speech to George III. that "what the House had granted liberally his Majesty would spend wisely;" or Sir Edward Seymour, who, when he felt his dignity ruffled by a burst of laughter whilst he was speaking, rushed indignantly out of the House. But times have changed, and we have changed with them. Much more latitude and freedom are now allowed than used to be conceded in former days. It is right, however, to say that The O'Donoghue spoke well, and succeeded, on the whole, in the object which he had in view—viz., to defend his own conduct and to hold up to scorn his opponent. One sentence of his speech was at once telling and true, and was loudly applauded:—"I am perfectly aware that the ancient mode of arbitrement has fallen into disuse; but, if it has, those unseemly manners that rendered it almost necessary have also disappeared." This is true; and let Sir Robert remember it. If he will not consent to "the fell arbitrement of bloody strokes" (and we should be the last to recommend the revival of duelling) he should refrain from using stinging words. The O'Donoghue was once called to order by the Speaker, and when he sat down was reminded that he had not apologised to the House for the infraction of its rules, nor promised that the matter should go no further. Whereupon he again arose and made the requisite amende honorable. It is noticeable, however, that in so doing he said not a word of regret, and, further, that he showed not the slightest sign of repentance. Indeed, nothing could be more easy, indifferent, and nonchalant, than the manner in which he tendered his slight apology. However, no exception could be taken. He had done what was required. The affair, which threatened at one time conflagration, went out like a snuff of candle; and in the next moment the clerk called the order of the day. And so ended this somewhat unusual and for the time exciting business. Of the two antagonists we should say the Irishman had the best of it. The general opinion in the House, we think, is that this scene might and ought to have been prevented, that Lord Palmerston ought to have advised Sir Robert to withdraw the irritating expression which he had used, and that Sir Robert should have at once consented. But Lord Palmerston is very plucky himself, and perhaps rather enjoyed the fun of the thing; and then it must be remembered that The O'Donoghue had certainly committed himself flagrantly in the Dublin Rotundo.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE PROPOSED VOLUNTEER REVIEW AT BRIGHTON.

LORD TRURO asked whether any application had been made to the War Office in relation to the command on the proposed volunteer field-day at Brighton on Easter Monday next, and, if so, whether the Government were willing to state the determination at which they had arrived? The competition for the command threatened, he said, to destroy the harmony and subordination which had hitherto existed between the volunteers and the Executive Government. The noble Lord protested against the assumption that a great military commander ought to be selected for the occasion, and expressed a hope that the choice reported to have been made would not be drawn into a precedent to deprive volunteer commanders of their right to lead the forces on field-days. He also protested against the slight which had been cast upon Lord Ranelagh in excluding him from the position he was entitled to fill on the occasion.

EARL DE GRAY and RIFON said that the consent of the Lord Lieutenant of the county must be obtained for holding field-days, and as yet it had not been given by the Lord Lieutenant of Sussex, consequently no official appointment to the command had been made. It was not intended to deviate from the course indicated by the Legislature; but if the muster was likely to be a large one, Lord Clyde would be selected for the command. He assured Lord Truro that there was no intention whatever to offer a slight to Lord Ranelagh.

LORD HARDINGE expressed his approval of the determination of the Government.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

MR. MAGUIRE, who had given notice that he would call attention to the existence of serious distress in Ireland, promised that he wished to defend himself and to show that certain statements made in Ireland and repeated in that House were not founded upon accurate information. He then entered very largely into details, supported by statements derived from various sources and by returns, which, he contended, were utterly inconsistent with agricultural prosperity in Ireland, and which showed that the pressure was felt by all classes, but especially small farmers, shopkeepers, and labourers, the extent of workhouse relief being no test of the amount of real pauperism. He simply stated facts, he said, and left the responsibility to the Government to act for the relief of the distress he had shown to exist, instead of endeavouring to dupe the minds of the people of this country. He moved that certain Irish poor-law returns be laid upon the table.

SIR R. PEEL said the alarm of famine in Ireland did not come from the landed proprietors of Ireland, as in 1846, 1847, and 1848, nor from the tenant-farmers, nor from the Parliamentary representatives of popular constituencies, nor from the people themselves, nor from persons who had an opportunity of knowing the condition of Ireland; but it came from a few persons in Ireland who had their representative in Mr. Maguire, whose knowledge of Ireland was of the most limited and subordinate character. The reason in Ireland, he admitted, had been most unfortunate; the quantity of rain had been unusually large, and there was a scarcity of fuel; but from the earliest period, apprehending that there might be a considerable amount of distress, everything had been done by the Irish Government to meet any unusual pressure, so that the accusations against them were most unfounded. Observing that the sanitary condition of the people of Ireland had never been better, he proceeded to reply in detail to the statements of Mr. Maguire, reading communications he had received in refutation of those statements. The cry raised and the representations made of great distress in Ireland he asserted to be not true; on the contrary, the state of that country was sound and satisfactory, as evinced by the diminished amount of crime, agrarian outrages, and evictions. He had had assurances from Lieutenants of counties, he said, entirely corroborating the statements he had made, and he indignantly denounced the attempt to conjure up imaginary grievances in Ireland, which was now happily changed, and where the pledges of property were becoming daily more apparent.

Observations upon the condition of Ireland and the conduct of the Government, more or less conflicting, were made by Mr. Dawson, Mr. Bagwell, Mr. Scully, Mr. P. Urquhart, and other Irish members. Mr. WHALLEY made some strong remarks upon the conduct of the Roman Catholic priests in Ireland.

Mr. Maguire withdrew his motion.

IRON-PLATED SHIPS.

In reply to a question from Sir F. Smith, Lord C. PAGET stated that the report of the Iron-plate Committee would not be laid on the table for some few days to come, as three important experiments remained to be made, upon the result of which might turn the expediency or inexpediency of constructing any more iron-plated ships.

THE ITALIAN QUESTION.

MR. GRIFFITH asked whether the English Minister at Turin had lately been directed to communicate to Baron Ricasoli any remonstrance on the part of the English Government against the late popular demonstrations in Italy against the continuance of the temporal power of the Papacy; or whether, in point of fact, he had made any communication of that character to the Italian Ministers, either alone or in conjunction with the French and Prussian Ministers?

LORD PALMERSTON said it was quite true that in almost every part of Italy there had been a strong manifestation of an earnest desire that Rome should be the central capital of the kingdom and that the temporal power of the Pope should cease. This feeling was strongly expressed in the elections of Rome itself, but Her Majesty's Government had not given any instructions to make any remonstrance upon the subject to the Government of Turin, and Sir James Hudson had not of his own authority taken any steps of the kind.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Markets and Fairs (Ireland) Bill was read a second time, as also was the Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill, and the Qualification for Offices Abolition Bill passed through Committee.

THE ROAD ACROSS HYDE PARK.

Mr. W. COWPER moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the London Coal and Wine Duties Continuance Act, 1861, and to authorise the formation of a road between Kensington-gore and Bayswater, and to apply the proceeds of the Metropolitan Improvement Fund account towards defraying the cost of the construction of such road.

A discussion took place, at the end of which Mr. B. OSBORNE moved the rejection of the bill.

A division took place, when, there being only twenty-nine members present, the House adjourned without any decision being come to on the bill.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE LAW OF PROPERTY.

Lord St. LEONARDS introduced two bills, one for amending the law of real property and the other giving purchasers of property a legal title after twenty years' possession. The noble and learned Lord expressed a hope that the bills would be referred to a Select Committee with those of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Cranworth, and Lord Chelmsford.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.—THE O'DONOGHUE AND SIR R. PEEL.

Lord PALMERSTON brought under the notice of the House a question affecting, he said, its privileges. Some expressions in the speech of Sir Robert Peel on Friday, upon Mr. Maguire's motion, had given offence to the hon. member for Tipperary (The O'Donoghue), and the consequence had been a "message" from that hon. member to Sir Robert, who, at his (Lord Palmerston's) own suggestion had referred the gentleman who conveyed the message to him. Lord Palmerston reminded the House that by its rules it was competent to any member to question what another member might say in the House, but not out of it, and that this was one of the most important privileges of Parliament. Having brought the matter to their notice, he left the House and the Chair to deal with it.

The SPEAKER said a distinct breach of the privileges of the House had been committed by The O'Donoghue, and it was his (the Speaker's) duty to call upon him to express his regret and to give an assurance that the matter should go no further.

Major GAVIN stated that he had acted as the friend of The O'Donoghue, and called on Sir R. Peel for an explanation of words used by him, to the effect that a meeting at the Rotunda, at Dublin, was composed of "manly traitors, who imitated the cabbage-garden heroes of 1845, but who had not been followed by any respectable person in Ireland." Having taken up the vindication of his friend's honour in the only way in which he understood those kind of things after twenty years' experience in the Army, he called on Sir R. Peel, and was referred to Lord Palmerston, when he found that the matter had been reported to the Speaker; and his friend's honour having been handed over to the Speaker and Lord Palmerston, he hoped it would be preserved.

The SPEAKER having again called upon the hon. member for Tipperary to express his regret at having committed a breach of privilege,

The O'DONOGHUE said he was placed in a position of some difficulty, in consequence of the attempt which Sir Robert Peel had made to disparage his social position. He could, he said, make every allowance for an unguarded expression used in the heat of debate, but it appeared to him that Sir Robert Peel had deliberately prepared his speech, and that the offensive words of which he (The O'Donoghue) complained were used advisedly. The right hon. Baronet had declined to offer any explanation, to retract, or apologise; and, as he had also declined to submit the matter in difference to that description of arbitrament which in former times was the alternative in such cases, the only conclusion which could be arrived at was that he was deficient in that quality for which his countrymen were so famous throughout the world. Sir Robert Peel was mistaken if he supposed that he would cause him (The O'Donoghue) to withdraw opinions which he held in common with the majority of the people of Ireland.

The SPEAKER again said that the matter did not lie between the hon. member and Sir R. Peel, but between the former and the House, and he hoped he would not conclude without stating that the matter should go no further.

The O'DONOGHUE said he regretted that he had committed a breach of privilege, and he need scarcely add, after what he had said, that the matter should go no further.

With this apology the House was satisfied, and the subject dropped.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

The motion for going into Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates led to a variety of questions relating to matters of detail by Sir J. Elphinstone, Admiral Duncombe, Sir F. Smith, Sir H. Seymour, and others, to which Lord C. Paget replied.

The House having gone into Committee,

Lord C. PAGET brought forward the Navy Estimates for the next financial year. He stated that the expenditure for the coming financial year 1862-3 was estimated at £11,794,305, whilst that for the year 1861-2, which would end on the 31st of April next, amounted to £12,640,583, showing a decrease compared with the former year of £846,283. That decrease was chiefly arrived at by a diminution in the number of men, a reduction in the sum required for the purchase of stores and steam-engines, and a considerable reduction under the head of transports for the conveyance of troops. The total force allotted would amount to 19 line-of-battle ships, 2 iron-sided ships, 38 frigates and corvettes, and 90 sloops; being a total of 149 vessels of all sizes. In addition to these there were 2 coastguard ships and 9 block-ships, which would bring the grand total of steam-ships up to about 160. Of this force it was intended to maintain at home 2 line-of-battle ships, 2 iron-sided frigates, 2 corvettes, and 4 sloops. It was also proposed to retain for service at sea 15,200 men and boys; in the Mediterranean, 9800; and in North America and Mexico, 12,200, inclusive of 700 marines who had been disembarked at Vera Cruz, making a total of 37,200 men and boys. On the more distant stations we should have 17,200 men and boys, which would make the whole force 54,200, exclusive of marines, dockyard riggers, able-bodied pensioners on shore, and 10,000 coastguard volunteers. The noble Lord next referred to the various reforms of antiquated usages which had been recently introduced in the Navy, and bore testimony to the beneficial effects upon the seamen themselves of substituting imprisonment for the lash in the case of many offences, and the adoption of a more humane system of discipline. With regard to iron-sided ships of war, Lord Clarence stated that twelve of these vessels would be ready in the coming year, that three more would be finished in 1864, and that when Captain Cole's ship was built there would be a fleet of sixteen. In conclusion, the noble Lord moved a vote of 76,000 men for the fleet and coastguard service.

Sir J. PAKINGTON expressed his regret that it was intended to reduce the Channel fleet to such an extent as the noble Lord had indicated, for he thought that the maintenance of a strong fleet on the home station was not only important as a question of national defence, but involved serious considerations in respect to the training, discipline, and practice of the Navy. He approved of the contemplated transfer of the Admiralty Offices from Somerset House to Whitehall.

Mr. WILLIAMS protested against the enormous expenditure on account of the Navy, which, he said, contrasted very unfavourably with the charge for that service in the year preceding the Crimean War.

Mr. LINDSAY also urged economy, and deprecated the extravagant outlay upon ships of war and the unnecessary desire on the part of the Admiralty to follow the example of the French Government.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Bentinck, Mr. Corry, Admiral Walcott, Admiral Duncombe, Sir M. Peto, and Sir James Elphinstone.

Lord PALMERSTON said there could be no doubt of the truth of the statement he made last year to the effect that the French Government had then twenty-six iron ships either completed or in progress. He could now add that, so far from there being any diminution of activity in the French dockyards, the Government had ordered ten more floating batteries, which were really iron ships of somewhat smaller size.

The vote was then agreed to, as also was a vote for £3,078,121 for wages and £1,362,073 for victuals.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN BLEACHFIELDS. Leave was given to Mr. Baxter to bring in a bill to prevent women and children being employed at machinery during the night at bleachfields.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

AFFAIRS IN NAPLES.

The Earl of DERBY, on behalf of the Marquis of Normanby, gave notice that on Thursday next he would ask the Foreign Secretary a question with regard to an extraordinary proclamation that had appeared in the Neapolitan and French papers, and which set forth that after a particular day no person should enter a certain district, that all houses, hovels, and cabins therein should be destroyed, and that the inhabitants of every farmhouse in which more than ten days' food was found should be treated as brigands and shot.

Earl RUSSELL said that he was not in possession of any information of the kind from the British Minister at Turin or the Consul at Naples.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

RULES OF THE HOUSE—COURTS OUT.

Mr. BENTINCK moved the following alteration in the 57th paragraph of the Rules, orders, and forms of procedure of the House, with the view of

facilitating the public business:—"If it appear on notice being taken, at the close of the speech of any member (such notice not to be taken during the time that any member is addressing the House), or on the report of a division of the House by the tellers, after four o'clock, that forty members are not present, Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without a question first put till the next sitting day; and the name of the member who has taken such notice, and also the name of every member present when the House is counted, shall be taken down by the clerk of the House, and published on the following day in the votes and proceedings."

The motion was seconded by Mr. KNIGHTLEY.

Sir G. GRAY contended that its effect would be to infringe the rights of private members and to bring discredit upon the proceedings of the House as a deliberative assembly.

Lord R. CRIC called upon the House to remove the only vestige of privacy about their proceedings—namely, the practice of hon. members who might have a grudge against another slinking behind the chair of the Speaker and whispering that forty members were not present.

Mr. B. OSBORNE commented with approval upon the public service of that useful and meritorious body of men the "counters-out" of the House. These were the philanthropists who, by quietly suppressing the "bores," "did good by stealth and blushed to find it fame."

The House divided, when the motion was negatived by 219 to 43.

THE TRANSPORT SERVICE.

Mr. LINDSAY moved "That, in the opinion of this House, her Majesty's Government ought to adopt measures to carry into effect the recommendations of the Select Committee of this House appointed in 1860 to inquire into the transport service, or at least such portions of the report of 1861 as were unanimously adopted by the said Committee." The hon. gentleman argued at some length in favour of the recommendations of the Select Committee, and called upon the House to recognise the labours of a tribunal composed of members of all shades of political opinions and extending over two Sessions.

Sir F. SMITH seconded the motion.

Sir G. C. LEWIS admitted that the report was well considered and that its recommendations were worthy of adoption by the Government, although, looking to the difficulties surrounding the subject, he was not in a position to say that the Government would at once act upon them by the establishment of a new department. A committee of the Admiralty had, in fact, already considered the necessary details, and many of the recommendations of the Committee would not doubt be carried out.

Mr. LINDSAY declared himself satisfied with the statement which he had elicited from the Government, and withdrew the motion.

ECCLÉSIASTICAL LAW.

Mr. H. SEYMOUR moved "That it is expedient that the ecclesiastical statutes be revised, with a view to their consolidation," which he argued was a preliminary step to the reform of the ecclesiastical law.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL said that as the Government were about to introduce measures for the amendment of the ecclesiastical law, it did not seem necessary to adopt any scheme of general consolidation of the ecclesiastical statutes, although there were branches of the law which would admit of consolidation, and the Government would be inclined to deal with them; such, for instance, as the Church Building Acts.

After some discussion the motion was withdrawn.

NEW BILLS.

Leave was given to introduce the following bills:—Mr. Locke King: A bill to provide for an alphabetical index to the register of voters in counties and boroughs in England and Wales. Sir G. Grey: A bill for the amendment of the Acts relating to the payment of the expenses of prosecutions. Mr. Rolt: A bill to regulate the procedure of the Court of Chancery, the object of which was to make it imperative on the Court to exercise its power on all questions of law and fact which were within its jurisdiction—that is, to prevent its being discretionary to refer any questions to the courts of law proper.

THE PROPOSED ROAD ACROSS KENSINGTON GARDENS.

Mr. COWPER renewed his motion for leave to bring in a bill to amend the London Coal and Wine Duties Continuance Act, 1861, and to authorise the formation of a road between Kensington-gore and Bayswater, and to apply the proceeds of the Metropolitan Improvement Fund account towards defraying the cost of construction of such road. He gave very full details, in addition to those he had given when the motion was originally made on Friday night, of the direction of the proposed permanent road (to be made by the Metropolitan Board of Works), its cost, the fund out of which it would be defrayed, and the time it would occupy in its construction.

In the discussion which followed, the proposed scheme underwent a severe criticism, and the project of "cutting up" Kensington Gardens was generally condemned. At length,

Mr. COWPER said, as the feeling of the Committee was so decided against the permanent road, he should withdraw the bill, and would make arrangements for an estimate to be laid before the House for a temporary road.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Exchequer Bills (Consolidated Fund) Bill passed through Committee. The Consolidated Fund (£973,747) Bill was read a second time.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WHIPPING BILL.

Mr. HADFIELD moved the second reading of the Whipping Bill, the object of which is to take away the power of magistrates to inflict corporal punishment on criminals.

Sir G. GRAY opposed it, urging that it was a matter best left to the Executive, and suggested its withdrawal, with a view to the introduction of another bill in a modified shape.

Mr. HADFIELD acceded to the suggestion, and, after a short conversation about the present irregular mode of inflicting corporal punishment, the bill was withdrawn.

THE METROPOLITAN LOCAL MANAGEMENT BILL.

Mr. TITE moved the second reading of the Metropolitan Local Management Act Amendment Bill, which is identical with that which passed the House last Session.

Mr. LOCKE observed that the Metropolitan Board of Works and the city of London were now at open war for their own private ends, greatly to the detriment of the public interests. The object of the present bill was to extend the powers of the Metropolitan Board. A Committee of the House had distinctly declared last year that the constitution of the board was defective, as being elected not directly by the ratepayers, but by vestries.

Sir J. V. SHELLEY supported the second reading of the bill.

After a short discussion, confined to the metropolitan members, the bill was read a second time.

CONVEYANCE OF VOTERS AT ELECTIONS.

On the second reading of the Conveyance of Voters Bill, Mr. CAVE moved its rejection on the ground that it practically disfranchised a number of electors in many boroughs.

Mr. PAUL pointed out that many boroughs embraced large areas, as much as seventy-three and sixty-one square miles, and that the bill ought not to apply to them as if they were merely towns; while the attempt to meet the difficulty by a multiplication of polling-places would increase expense and afford excuse for indirect corruption.

Sir R. CLIFTON objected to the bill as disfranchising elderly and infirm voters, of whom there were in his constituency some who were seventy, eighty, and even ninety years of age.

Mr. VANE opposed, and Mr. LAWSON and Mr. FOLJAMBE supported, the bill.

Lord J. MANNERS opposed it, as it created a fancy franchise, depending on the physical powers of electors.

Mr. P. A. TAYLOR supported the bill as an instalment of Parliamentary reform.

Mr. COLLIER pointed out the anomaly of legalising the expenses of conveyance of voters and making it illegal to pay money to the voter for the purpose. As to the exercise of the franchise, that was the business of the elector, whose duty it was to go to the poll. Counties were excluded from the operation of the bill, in conformity with the report of a Committee of the House. The hardship inflicted on a few boroughs was compensated for by the general good which would be done.

Sir G. GRAY stated that he should vote for the bill. The subject was fully considered by the Committee, and they came to the conclusion that the law should remain as it stood as regarded counties, but that no expenses for conveyance of voters in boroughs ought to be allowed, on the ground of abuses which attached to the system in boroughs; and that non-resident voters in counties were recognised by the law.

In the debate which followed, Mr. Hunt and Mr. Ayrton opposed, and Mr. Clay supported the bill.

On a division the second reading was rejected by 160 to 130.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Trade Marks Bill was read a second time, and referred to a Select Committee.

On the third reading of the Qualification for Offices Abolition Bill, Mr. NEWDEGATE moved its rejection, which was seconded by Mr. SELWYN.

The House at once divided, when the third reading was carried by 140 to 127; and the bill was then read a third time and passed.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE ITALIAN PROCLAMATION.

The Earl of DERBY said, in consequence of the answer he received the other evening that the Government had no knowledge of the proclamation

to which he referred, which, he confessed, took him somewhat by surprise, he found it necessary to alter the terms of his motion. He had furnished Earl Russell with the Italian and French newspapers, and he felt certain that he should receive an answer which would give satisfaction to the country. The proclamation had been issued at Ancona; and, although it was addressed to the Commandant of the brigade, yet it was issued by parties responsible to the Government of Italy. The noble Earl then read the document in question, which set forth that no person was to set foot within a certain territory, and that all persons who were found in the possession of more than one day's sustenance would be treated as brigands and be shot. He would leave the document in all its native atrocity, which purported to be issued by a Government elected by the general voice of the Italian people, to be dealt with by the noble Earl. He did not think that it was the proper way to restore tranquillity, after a district had been seriously disturbed, and was calculated to make the whole district to which it referred a desert. It was unheeded of cruelty to make the innocent suffer for the guilty, and it was a disgrace to any person wearing the garb of a soldier to have issued such a document. Earl Russell had remonstrated against the sinking of stone fleets at the mouth of the harbour of Charleston, but that was nothing compared to the atrocity of this proclamation. What he wished to ask was whether the Government had yet received any information relative to the genuineness of the document in question from Sir J. Hudson; and whether he could state if Sir James had expressed to the Italian Government the feeling such a proclamation would excite in this country, and if Sir James had not communicated the information to this country, whether he was prepared to ask why such had not been done?

Earl RUSSELL said he had no official information relative to the issuing of the proclamation referred to by the noble Earl. He entirely agreed with him in his condemnation of such a cruel proceeding if such had really taken place.

After some observations from the Earl of Malmesbury, The Duke of ARGYLL stated that he was prepared, from private information, to declare that the document was not genuine.

THE LAW OF LUNACY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR laid upon the table a bill for the amendment of the law of lunacy, and stated that he proposed to exclude from future lunacy inquiries all events that had not occurred within two years before the trial. He also proposed to shut out, unless on certain conditions, the scientific evidence which was now adduced, of which the jury were incompetent to judge, and to establish a board of lunacy for the due protection both of suspected and pronounced lunatics by medical visitation.

After some discussion, the bill was read a first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. Berkeley and Mr. J. J. Powell took the oaths and their seats for the city of Gloucester.

NEW WRIT.

On the motion of Mr. WHITMORE, a new writ was ordered for the city of Canterbury, in the room of Mr. Butler Johnstone, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

THE MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE BRITISH AND INDIAN ARMY.

Sir C. WOOD, in reply to Mr. BAZLEY, said, as the position of the medical officers of the British Army and of those of the Indian Army was by no means identical, it would be impossible to place them both upon the same footing.

EDUCATION.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. AYTON rose to ask whether it was the intention of the Government to acquiesce in Mr. Walpole's motion for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the best mode of distributing the Parliamentary grants for education, now administered by the Privy Council; and, if so, to ask Mr. Walpole whether he would immediately lay on the table of the House the resolutions which he intends to move in Committee.

Sir G. GRAY said it was most inconvenient to raise such a question on the motion for going into Supply on the Navy Estimates. It would be unusual for the Government to state their intentions on a measure which was to come on a month hence. When the resolutions were laid before the House the Government would be able to come to some decision on the matter.

Mr. OSBORNE asked Mr. Walpole when he would lay his resolutions on the table.

Mr. WALPOLE said he did not wish to go into Committee on any specific plan of his own, but he proposed the Committee in order that they might consider a very complicated matter in debate. He did not wish to consider the revised code merely, but the whole system of the distribution of Parliamentary grants for education. If he were going to upset the revised code he would propose one resolution, to be put from the chair—that it was not expedient to adopt that revised code; but he was not prepared, nor did he desire, to upset that code. He believed that without upsetting that code most beneficial changes might be introduced into it. He was not able to give notice of the resolutions until he knew whether the House would agree to the motion to go into Committee. In the event of that agreement he would give the amplest notice of his resolutions.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER hoped that the Government would accede to the proposal.

Mr. LOWE thought that if they once got into Committee of the whole House it would be competent for any gentleman to move resolutions. The Government had no wish to prevent the discussion of the question; nor did they think the question could be discussed so well as in Committee; but he thought that before agreeing to go into Committee the resolutions should be laid before the House.

Mr. DISRAELI said the first question to be settled was, whether they were to go into Committee or not. If Government would consent to going into Committee Mr. Walpole would produce his resolutions in ample time, and the same courtesy would be expected from other gentlemen who might wish to propose resolutions.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the Government would offer no opposition to going into Committee on a future day, according to the terms of Mr. Walpole's motion.

SUPPLY.

The House went into Committee on the Navy Estimates, which were under consideration during the remainder of the evening.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

GLoucester.—The polling for this borough took place on Wednesday, and has resulted in the return of both the Liberal candidates. The following was the state of the voting at the close of the poll:—Berkeley (Liberal), 769; Powell (Radical), 713; Potter (Conservative), 684. Majority for Berkeley, 74; majority for Powell, 29.

WAKEFIELD.—The nomination took place on Wednesday morning at the Corn Exchange. From 4000 to 5000 persons were present. Mr. John Barff nominated Sir J. C. D. Hay, Conservative, and Mr. T. M. Carter seconded him. Mr. R. J. Mackie proposed and Mr. Simpson seconded the Liberal candidate, Mr. R. Smethurst. The show of hands was in favour of Mr. Smethurst. Mr. Barff demanded a poll for Sir J. C. D. Hay. There was no demonstration, and the assembly quietly dispersed. The polling took place on Thursday. At the close the votes stood thus—Hay, 455; Smethurst, 426.

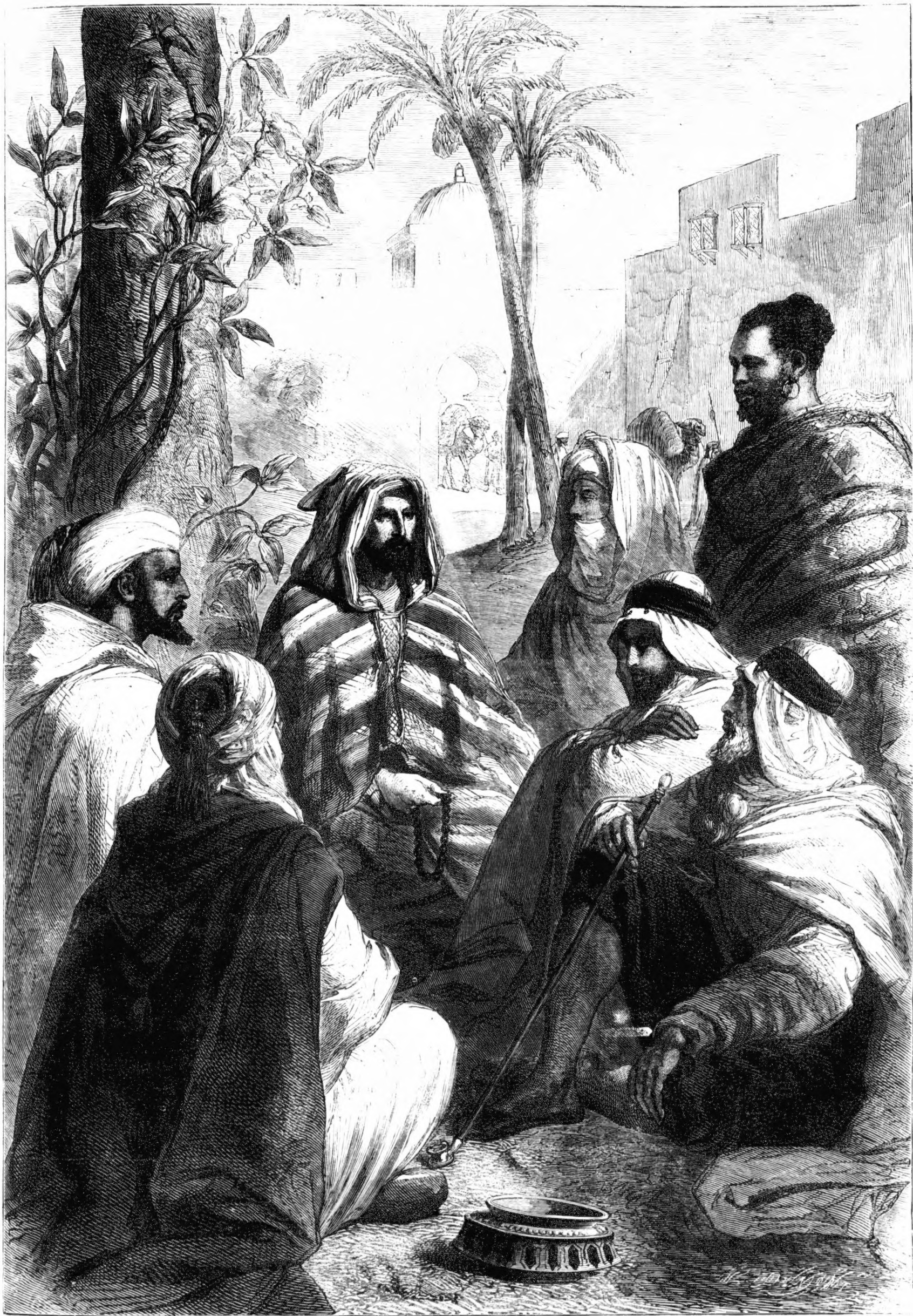
LONGFORD COUNTY.—Colonel White it seems is not to be allowed to walk over the course. The Roman Catholic clergy of the county have determined to bring forward Major Miles O'Reilly, the commander of the Irish Brigade which went to Italy to fight for the Pope. Major O'Reilly was accordingly summoned from Brussels, where he was residing, and has arrived and entered upon a canvass. Colonel White is generally supported by the Liberals and Conservatives. The excitement is intense, and a sharp fight, somewhat in the thorough old Irish party style, is going on. The polling commences on Monday next, and will be continued on Tuesday.

HERO AND LEANDER.

THE old classical story of the beautiful Thracian priestess, for whose sake her lover nightly swam the Hellespont that he might see her, and met his death, soon to be followed by that of his inconsolable mistress, has always been a fitting theme for the painter's as well as the poet's art. The effects of light and water were just such as gave to Turner the opportunity of displaying his extraordinary power of appreciating atmospheric differences; and his picture is, indeed, rather a study of the scene of the tragedy than a reproduction of the story itself, since the figures of the actors are scarcely so interesting as the powerful rendering of sky, and wave, and cloud. It is seldom that the real Turnerian effects can be reproduced in an engraving, and this in itself is, perhaps, the principal reason that the great painter's works have not yet become popular. Many of them, too, are so wild that any attempt to imitate them with the graver would be almost certain failure. We have from time to time published such of them as will best bear popular rendering in an illustrated paper, and have now to present our readers with a copy of one of the most celebrated.



HENRY AND LEANER — (FROM THE PICTURE, BY J. M. W. TURNER, IN THE TURNER GALLERY.)



THE ARAB STORYTELLER.—(FROM A SKETCH BY C. YRIARTE.)

THE EASTERN STORYTELLER.

To a people whose amusements are so little varied as those of the Egyptians, the Sho'ara, or poets, must be a class of public performers who are pretty sure of finding a welcome. It is true there are various public festivals which are interesting enough sometimes to last for days together, but the private amusements of the better class of people are exceedingly limited in variety, while some of them are scarcely permitted amongst the more respectable classes. The several games resembling chess and draughts; the listening to the hired musicians, who are no mean proficient on their several instruments, either in concerted music or the accompaniment to a love song, chanted by one of the Awalm, or female singers; witnessing the street performances of the jugglers and serpent-charmers, and listening to the recital of legends and romances, almost completes their list of resources against ennui.

The Ghawazee, or public dancing-girls, are not recognised in good society; and, although they are sometimes employed on the occasion of a wedding or the birth of a child, to perform in the court of a house, they are never admitted into a respectable harem.

The storytellers and the musicians are the generally-accepted professional entertainers of the Egyptian household; and, indeed, they frequently unite their accomplishments in public performances. On these occasions the reciter seats himself upon a stool which is placed on the raised bench in front of some coffee-shop, the audience occupying places by his side, taking up a convenient position on the benches of the opposite houses in the narrow street, or sitting on stools made of palm sticks. The storyteller receives a small sum from the coffee-shop keeper, and the customers who are attracted thither contribute whatever they please in return for their amusement. Pipes and coffee having been duly supplied, the reciter commences his narrative in a lively and dramatic manner, repeating the poetry, if it be in verse, in a sort of chant, and after each verse playing a few notes on a viol with a single chord—used only for this purpose, and called the poet's viol—in which he is frequently accompanied by a friend with a similar instrument. There are a number of these storytellers in Cairo who are called "Abou-Zeyders," on account of their never repeating any other tale than the "Romance of the Life of Abou-Zeyd," a poem narrating the adventures of an Arab of the tribe of Bence Hilal, who, having been born black in answer to an injudicious prayer of his mother, was disowned by his family, and afterwards, under the name of Barakat, became the chief of the tribe into which he had been adopted by the Emir Fual. The story ends by the discovery of the son, after many wonderful adventures and deeds of daring, by his father, who is defeated by him in battle, thereupon acknowledges him, and, after having implored pardon for the injuries inflicted on him and his mother, reinstates them both. After this, Abou-Zeyd undergoes several surprising adventures, the most interesting being those encountered in an expedition in search of pasture, on which occasion three of his nephews, disguised as storytellers, and himself as their servant, journeyed through Northern Africa, and signalled themselves by great exploits with another tribe. Another set of reciters confine themselves to the history of the famous Sultan Ez-Zahir-Beybars, who ascended the throne of Egypt in the last month of "the year of the Flight," 658 (1260); and a select few are celebrated for repeating, or rather reading, romances, especially the romance of "Antar." These are read in a popular manner from the book, the verses only being chanted without accompaniment. It may be imagined that these stories become tedious, until it is discovered that some of them occupy several volumes and contain numerous other tales all connected with the original history in a way similar to those of "The Arabian Nights," and not without resemblance, perhaps, to those of two or three modern novelists who unite their consecutive works by retaining the original character in different degrees of relation to the main plot.

It occasionally happens, however, that an Arab storyteller will take his accustomed seat under a tree near the houses, from the terraces of which his presence is soon discovered. Then the audience group themselves round him, having first given him the usual salutation, and dispose themselves to listen. The interruptions of the passengers fail to arrest his attention, or that of his audience, who watch him as he describes to them the journey to Mecca, assisting his memory, perhaps, by moving the beads upon his chaplet one by one as he proceeds. With extraordinary ability and consummate skill he recounts the forming of the caravan, the arrival of the chief, the passage of the company through the villages where fresh votaries await them at the doors of the *douars*, where the heads of families come forth to meet the chief; the camp in the desert, with all the strange accessories of night, such as the sounds of wild animals and the restless movements of horses and camels, the rising of the sun, the preparations against the threatened attack of robbers—all are rendered by modulation of voice, expression of face and eye, and appropriate gesture. Nothing can divert the attention of his hearers except the call to prayers, which may occur before his story is finished, in which case the whole party proceed at once to their devotions.

Our engraving represents one of these Sho'ars in the act of reciting some narrative of adventure which is more in the nature of a personal recollection than the regular romances to which we have before referred.

THE QUEEN AND THE ROYAL FAMILY.—Her Majesty has now so far recovered from the depression caused by the lamented death of the Prince Consort as to be able to take her customary carriage exercise. The health of Princess Alice having suffered from her devotion to her Royal mother, the Princess has been recommended to have the benefit of a change of air, and has in consequence been residing for a few days at Windsor Castle. Prince Alfred has arrived from the West Indies and joined the Queen and the Royal family at Osborne. The Prince of Wales has been paying a visit to the Empress of Austria at Venice. His Royal Highness left that city on the 19th ult., and has since paid a flying visit to Grosvenor, Cattaro, and other places on the Dalmatian coast, before embarking for Corfu. It is expected that her Majesty will go to Windsor Castle early next week, and will proceed to Balmoral about May 1, where she will remain for a month. These are present intentions, but the arrangements may be altered according to circumstances.

ANNIVERSARY OF WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.—The anniversary of Washington's birthday was celebrated by a public breakfast at the Freemasons' Tavern on Saturday last, when about 170 ladies and gentlemen, principally Americans resident in London, sat down to a sumptuous feast. The Right Rev. C. P. McIlvaine, D.D., Bishop of Ohio, presided. Among those present were:—The Hon. Charles Francis Adams, the American Minister; Mr. C. L. Wilson and Mr. B. Moran, secretaries of the United States' legation; Hon. Freeman H. Morse, United States' Consul; Mr. William Moran, United States' Consul at Bayonne; Mr. W. Wilkins, Vice-Consul at Cronstadt; Mr. Cyrus W. Field, &c. Speeches suitable to the occasion were delivered by the chairman, Mr. Adams, and other gentlemen.

INAUGURATION AND LAUNCH OF THE PLYMOUTH LIFE-BOAT.—Monday last was a day that will long be remembered in Plymouth and its neighbourhood, and well deserves to be marked with a white stone in the annals of the Three Towns. It is calculated that nearly 70,000 people turned out on the day mentioned to witness the splendid life-boat which Miss Burdett Coutts had presented, through the National Life-boat Institution, to the Port of Plymouth. The boat, mounted on her transporting-carriage, had arrived at Plymouth on Saturday afternoon, the Great Western and the other railway companies having liberally brought her down by express goods-train free of any charge. The life-boat, which is named The Prince Consort, was drawn on her transporting-carriage in procession through the Three Towns, and the deafening and enthusiastic cheers of the vast concourse which lined the streets, the bells of the parish churches ringing merry peals throughout the day. On Tuesday various experiments were made with the life-boat. She was launched from the Royal William Victualling Yard, and afterwards capsized under Mount Wise and under the Hoe.

A WEALTHY BEGGAR.—The Stepney parochial authorities have advertised for the heirs of a travelling beggar, named John Denham, supposed to have belonged originally to Newcastle-on-Tyne, who died lately in a lodging-house in High-street, Stepney, London, and was buried at the expense of the parish. The parochial officers found in the pocket of the coat which had been worn by the deceased a coarse leather pocket-book, containing six bank deposit receipts for sums amounting in the whole to £700.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1862.

THE PROPOSED VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

AN awkward difficulty has been adroitly solved by the Government. It is, we believe, generally known that certain jealousies have for a long time past been undermining the volunteer movement. This movement, in its origin and in its constitution essentially of the middle class, owes, notwithstanding, no small amount of its prestige and success to the patronage of the aristocracy. Noble Lords, by placing themselves at the head of volunteer regiments, have brought to bear a certain degree of influence and power which it would have been vain to expect from commanders chosen from the class which supplied the main body. But among these noble Lieutenant-Colonels differences have arisen and feelings have been developed which threatened not only to divide the several corps, but in some instances to create dissensions between the men and their leaders.

On the occasion of the volunteer review at Brighton last Easter it is well known that Lord Ranelagh was left almost unsupported to bear the risk of a grand failure, without the hope of such an éclat as the presence of the great body of the metropolitan regiments might have added to the display which he organised. The result was triumph to Lord Ranelagh, discomfiture to his rivals. While his Lordship, who is almost idolised by every man in his regiment, was earning golden opinions on the sunny slopes of the Sussex downs by the masterly manner in which the Brighton review was carried out, other volunteer commanders were dragging their scanty and disappointed followers through the reedy morasses of Wimbledon amid such a deluge of rain as even our volunteers had scarcely before encountered.

Such an opportunity was, it appears, not again to be allowed to his Lordship. There came a rumour of a meeting of metropolitan volunteer commanders, among whom it is said Lord Ranelagh was not invited, and at which it is reported to have been arranged that the respective regiments would at the approaching Easter attend at Brighton only in the event of a military officer being appointed to take the general command. With all this the men had nothing to do. Perhaps their individual sympathies were rather with plucky Lord Ranelagh, who had already shown his competency, than with their own commanding officers, some of whom are seen too seldom to inspire the perfect esteem and confidence of their subordinates. This much may, however, be taken for certain, that there was engendered by the proceeding to which we have referred, a feeling which might have gone far to dim, if not to annihilate, the prospects of the review.

The Government authorities have, however, met the case in a manner which reflects upon them the highest credit. By the appointment of Lord Clyde to the command they have silenced all opposition, stifled all jealousy. Even Lord Ranelagh, who, under any other disposition of the affair, might have had some just cause for complaint, cheerfully acquiesces, in hearty, manly good faith, with the programme as settled. The regiments commanded by other officers are spared the slight which some might have felt had a commander from another corps been placed over their own. The difficulty has, so far, been happily tided over. But with all this it points to a state of things far from satisfactory, one which is fraught with danger to the very constitution of the volunteer movement, our national pride and safety, our true *decus et tutamen*. It points to a growing disposition on the part of volunteer commanders rather to envy than to emulate the success of a brother labourer in the field. It points to a too frequent disregard of the feelings of the men themselves so long as certain jealousies may be irresponsibly indulged in by those whose special duty it is to forward not only the interests, enjoyments, and comforts of their own corps, but of the whole volunteer force as a national institution. It is not the only indication of the kind. We have heard of whole regiments being disbanded through squabbles with aristocratic chiefs. We know that one of the largest metropolitan corps is at this moment deploring the loss of its most active, efficient, and popular officer through some difference in which the men in the ranks took no part, and we have heard that his resignation has been publicly announced as a cause of regret to the men. Such things as these, we repeat, point to a danger. The very essence and embodiment of this is the power of Lords Lieutenant of counties. As ingredients of the Constitution of the country,

comparatively few of these gentlemen had even been heard of before the volunteer movement. It is, nevertheless, their influence, and theirs pre-eminently, which threatens annihilation to the volunteers. It is to them we owe the appointment of commanders not always popular, the disbanding of regiments too liberal in the exercise of their rights of discussion, and the comparative exclusion of the working classes from the ranks of the riflemen. It is monstrous that any individual should have it in his power to defeat the patriotism of hundreds of his fellow-subjects at the dictate of his own irresponsible whim.

We can only hope that the same finger of statesmanship (in which we are inclined to believe that we can trace the guiding master-wit of the Premier) will lead the volunteers ("dont l'Angleterre est si fière," as the *Débats* once proclaimed) out of all impending perils as out of the threatened difficulty of the review of 1862.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has signified her intention of giving a portrait of the Prince Consort to the National Portrait Gallery.

THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL of the city of London have determined to place a bust of the Prince Consort in the Councilroom, as a companion bust to that of the Queen which already adorns the hall.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH has subscribed £200 to the Eglinton and Winton memorial. The whole fund now amounts to nearly £9000.

THE BRETROTHAL of the young King of Portugal with the Princess Marie-Louise-Alexandrine-Caroline, of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, sister of the late Queen of Portugal, is announced as having taken place. The Princess was born on the 17th of November, 1845.

THE HEALTH of the EMPRESS of AUSTRIA is stated to be so completely re-established that no dread of a relapse is any longer entertained. The Empress is still in Venice, and the Emperor is expected to arrive there at Easter, when both will return together to Vienna.

EVERY DAY THE FRENCH PRINCE IMPERIAL, accompanied by his gouvernante, M. Bachon, his equerry, and a boy of about his own age, takes a riding lesson in the *malgré* of the Louvre. The youth will enter his seventh year on the 16th of next month.

IT IS REPORTED THAT THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON has addressed an autograph letter to the King of Prussia urging him to recognise the kingdom of Italy.

AT THE FESTIVAL ON BEHALF OF THE ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS, which will be celebrated on the 4th instant, at the London Tavern, ladies will dine with the gentlemen, and the wives of the Sheriffs will be in attendance to receive the lady visitors.

A TESTIMONIAL, subscribed for by the admirers of Mr. Charles Kean, will be presented to that gentleman by his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, at St. James's Hall, on the 22nd inst. It will afterwards be removed to the exhibition, a space having been reserved for its reception.

THE ITALIAN FREEMASONS have just introduced an important innovation into the statutes of the society. There are now sister masons, venerables, and great mistresses.

DEERFOOT AND BRIGHTON ran a ten-mile race at Roberts's ground, Brompton, on Monday, for £50, when the former won, but only by three yards, the ten miles having been run in 33 min. 10 sec.

A RUMOUR that an attempt had been made to assassinate the French Ambassador at Rome has been positively contradicted in Paris and Turin newspapers.

A BAKER at LYONS is making a fortune by selling "Dumollard roll"—i.e., statuettes of the murderer in hardbake!

GENERAL GARIBOLDI, on the 15th, wrote as follows to the youth of Italy:—"You were a thousand in 1860. Be a million in 1862, and do not mind anything else. Of the result we shall speak hereafter."

THE anniversary festival of the Royal General Theatrical Fund will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Monday, April 11. Mr. Alfred Wigan will occupy the chair on the occasion, and be supported by a strong muster of the celebrities connected with literature, the drama, and the stage.

DURING the publication of certain banns in the parish church at Arbroath, Scotland, a middle-aged woman rose and said, "I protest against that in the name of the Lord." It appears that she had, or believed she had, the first claim on the affections of the would-be bridegroom.

DURING the year 1860 no fewer than 180 soldiers were flogged in the British Army, the number of lashes inflicted being 1975. Desertion, insubordination, and "disgraceful conduct," were generally the offences committed.

THE REV. DR. ROWLAND WILLIAMS, who is Vice-Principal and Senior Tutor of St. David's College, Lampeter, has formally notified to the Principal his intention to resign his offices, and to withdraw from Lampeter after the next June examinations. His successor will be appointed in time to enter upon his duties at Michaelmas.

IT IS SAID THAT THE POET LAUREATE has in hand an "Ode," to be produced at the opening of the Great Exhibition this year, and in which he will commemorate most of the public virtues of the late Prince Consort.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER has announced his intention of submitting his financial statement to the House before Easter, which falls this year on the 20th of April.

THE REV. EDWARD BALSTON, M.A., Junior Fellow of Eton, has been appointed by the Provost and Fellows Head Master of the school.

IT IS STATED THAT A CAMP of 40,000 MEN is about to be formed by the French Government at the foot of the Pyrenees.

A LAMB missed in October last by Mr. Leitch, of New Blainie, was found a few days ago in the centre of a corn-stack. It was alive, and in wonderfully good condition.

LIEUTENANT BROOK, of her Majesty's ship *Lapwing*, who, with a boat's crew of his ship, recently saved the lives of the crew of a Mecklenburg ship, has been presented by the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin with a gold medal, together with £20 for distribution among the boat's crew.

THE DEATHS recently are recorded of persons who had attained the following advanced ages:—One of 103, two of 103, one of 94, two of 90, one of 85, one of 84, one of 82, and eight of 70 years and upwards.

THE RECEIPTS of the THEATRES, concerts, and other places of public amusement in Paris during the last month, amounted to 1,769,083fr., being 170,168fr. more than in December, 1861.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has just authorised the General Maritime Company to purchase steamers in England for a line between France and Mexico, about to be established.

THE BUSINESS AGENT OF PRINCE JOSEPH BONAPARTE, his *alter ego*, M. RANZANI, has just been arrested by order of the Pontifical Government. All that is known further is, that the arrest is due to political causes.

THE IRON-PLATED SHIP TRIUMPH, in course of construction at Pembroke, has had her name changed to that of the Prince Consort.

TAMBERLIK is expected in Paris next week from St. Petersburg. He will first appear at the Italian Opera, in "Otello."

THE ONLY DAUGHTER of a gentleman residing near Andover eloped with her father's groom last week, but, on arriving at the Waterloo station, London, a telegram had preceded the youthful runaway; they were detained, the father arrived and compelled his daughter to return home, while the expectant bridegroom shortly afterwards made his way back to his cottage, a sadder if not a wiser man.

A NATIONAL DEBT BOARD has been formed by the Turkish Government to superintend and control the whole public debt of the empire. The negotiations for a new loan were still pending.

IT IS STATED THAT the Commercial Treaty between Prussia and France has received the signatures of the contracting parties for both Powers, and that it now only awaits the approval of the Zollverein, which is shortly expected.

CHILD-MURDER seems to have increased greatly of late years in the metropolis. In the five years from 1856 to 1860 there are recorded—1856, 34; 1857, 36; 1858, 43; 1859, 74; 1860, 111: total, 298 verdicts of "Wilful murder," besides 780 verdicts of "Found dead." For 1861 no return has yet been made.

FROM NASSAU we learn that the Conqueror will be entirely lost. She has been stripped, and most of her appurtenances have been saved.

THE VACANCY created in the French Academy by the death of Father Lacordaire has been filled up by the election of the Duke de Broglie.

CHARLES FAULKNER, better known as "Steeple Jack," from his daring feats of fixing conductors to church steeples, &c., was killed the other day by a fall from a building at Manchester on which he was employed.

LAST WEEK, as a man went shooting, accompanied by his dog, beside River Ebb, something appeared glancing in the water, near the bridge, immediately dashed in, and, after a short struggle, succeeded in bringing a large salmon of 15 lb. weight.

THE following publishes the official returns of the receipts of the French Consulate, amounting to 160,000,000, being an increase of 12,000,000, over the year 1861.

THE following is continuing to perform her incubatory duties with true perseverance. The serpent has not yet broken her fast, but appears to be fastidious. It is expected that the process of incubation will occupy several weeks longer.

THE ORPHAN WORKING COMPANY have presented to the Orphan Working Society, a bill, £50 in aid of the expenses arising out of the school building for 400 poor orphan children.

MR. WINDHAM, the well-known actress, was, on Saturday last, married at St. James's Church, to Captain Henry Baring, son of Henry Baring, M.P. for Marlborough.

SEVERAL MEMORIALS from the three northern countries of Europe are being forwarded to the Government, by way of Hamburg. The greater part of them are from Denmark, very many of them belonging to the well-to-do classes of the peasant class.

WILLIAM CHARLTON, engine-driver, was on Monday, at the Carlisle Works, convicted of the murder of Jane Fenniton, gatekeeper at the Carlisle Railway, on the 21st of November last. He was sentenced to be hanged.

A FIFTY-THREE RETURN, just issued, states that on the 1st of last month, 23 steamships were afloat, there being 414 screw and 111 paddle; 100 and 1 paddle were building. The building of 13 others has been ordered. The number of active sailing-ships afloat was 110.

AN ADDRESS, accompanied by a present of a diadem, has been sent by a lady of English lineage to the ex-Queen of Naples, to which lady the names of the subscribers are those of ladies belonging to the Conservative families. It is this fact any political significance?

THE CASE OF MR. W. F. WINDHAM came before the Lords Justices on Friday week, on a petition praying, among other things, that the costs of opposing a petition might be paid by Major-General Windham and his co-petitioners. The petition was ordered to stand over for the present.

THE INSURANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION BUILDING was effected a day or two since in the Norwich Union Fire Office. The sum for which the building is insured is £150,000, and the amount of the premium £307 10s.

MR. COMPTON has given notice of a bill to enable the Commissioners of her Majesty's Works to acquire a site for the erection of courts of justice, and of a bill to supply means towards the expense of providing courts of justice, and of offices belonging to the same.

CHINA IS A GREAT RAG COUNTRY, for the Chinese are a people in rags. A ragged gentleman, on the passing of Mr. Gladstone's bill, sent out a cargo of rags. A ship is now on its way to the Thames, and will arrive to find the quotations for rags lower in London than at Canton.

THE CANADIAN STEAMERS made 105 voyages across the Atlantic last year. The Liverpool and London and Canadian line each made 10 voyages. Altogether there were 514 transatlantic voyages made by steamers in the year. The number of passengers was 71,410. There was an increase of 9445 going out to America, and an increase of 1312 travelling homeward.

BY A CIRCULAR OF THE DANISH MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, all the chiefs of districts are requested to favour by every means in their power the formation of private rifle clubs, as an effectual means of exercising young men in the use of arms, and of strengthening the confidence of the people in the force for the defence of the nation.

A COLLISION between a coal and a cattle train took place at the Wolverton station of the London and North-Western Railway on Saturday evening, by which one man was killed and two others seriously injured. The driver of the cattle train has been committed on a charge of manslaughter, he having neglected the signals made that the cattle train was before him, and so caused the collision.

THE CAPTAIN of the notorious Confederate steamer Sumter, we learn by a telegram from Madrid, has been arrested at Tangiers. The arrest, we are told, was made at the instance of the American Consul at Gibraltar and of the commander of the Tuscara, but the charge on which the arrest was made is not specified.

WHEN the last two days' insurances for large amounts have been effected in London, for French accounts, on goods per steamers from Havre to the ports of the Confederate States. A single policy, effected at one of the marine offices, is reported to be for £100,000 sterling. The premiums, including risk of capture by blockading vessels of war, range from 15 to 20 guineas per cent.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

I HAVE reason to believe that the statements made in the House of Commons in the matter of The O'Donoghue and Sir Robert Peel are not quite correct. It was said that Sir Robert when he received a message from The O'Donoghue by Major Gavin promptly referred the gallant Major to Lord Palmerston. But I understand that Major Gavin was first referred to Captain Peel Dawson, the member for Londonderry county, whose mother was a sister of the late Sir Robert Peel. This gentleman, however, it was found was not in town, and when the discovery was made Sir Robert referred Major Gavin to Lord Palmerston. What a stride we have taken in civilisation during this century! No longer ago than thirty years, or thereabouts, the Duke of Wellington fought a duel with the Earl of Winchelsea. About forty years ago the Duke of Buckingham—the old Duke, grandfather of the present holder of the title—the querulous gentleman whose diary has lately been published, fought with the Duke of Bedford, the father of the Duke who died last year; and Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Canning went into the field. These, however, were all bloodless affairs, as was also that between Mr. Roebuck and Mr. Black, editor of the *Morning Chronicle*, so lately as 1845. But in 1815 Mr. O'Connell fought with Mr. D'Esterre, and killed him. This fatal duel led O'Connell "to register a vow in heaven" that he would never fight another duel. Disraeli challenged him some thirty-five years ago, but without success. The last notable duel in England came off between the Earl of Cardigan and Captain Harvey Tuckett. The Captain in this affair was wounded, and the Earl was tried with grand ceremony by his peers. The indictment failed, because no one could prove that Captain Harvey Tuckett, named therein, was the man shot at. The fact was as notorious as that the sun rises every morning; but it could not be proved. This was the last trial of a peer for felony. Since then duelling has rapidly waned before the light of education. And now when a couple of men propose to go out and settle a quarrel with pistols they are laughed at as fools.

The Right Hon. William Cowper met with a severe but deserved rebuke on Tuesday night, one which, it is hoped, will make the gentleman more cautious in the future. An agitation has long been going on for a road through Hyde Park to connect the north and south of London. In an evil hour Mr. Cowper consented to make a road, not, however, through Hyde Park, but right through the heart of Kensington Gardens, cutting this beautiful quiet place of resort in two. The road was to be sunk 12 ft. below the surface; in fact, to be a trench, passable only by a bridge or bridges. Now, 12 ft. below the surface would not have been a sufficient depth to conceal entirely from public view the vehicles in the road. The horses and wheels, and, for the most part, the bodies of the cabs, carriages, and omnibuses, would have been hidden; but the passengers on the latter, and the heads of the drivers of the former, would have been seen—seen moving along without any apparent cause, which would have been curious but hardly appropriate to the place, and certainly not an addition to the beauties of this lovely garden. Mr. Cowper foolishly thought that he could carry this project; but on Tuesday he discovered his mistake. Seldom has the House of Commons more unmistakably expressed its opinion than it did on this question. Friends and foes were equally loud in their protests. Not a man was found to defend the project; and as Lord Palmerston saw that a majority, or even a respectable minority, was hopeless, he advised his stepson to withdraw the bill, and Kensington Gardens are for the present saved from destruction and desecration. On Friday week the bill was counted out; on Monday last it was unceremoniously scouted out. Mr. Cowper with half an eye might have seen the result; but with marvellous obstinacy he refused to the last to alter his course; and he has had his reward. There will be a road

for easy access to the exhibition, but it will not be a new road. The same arrangement will be made that we had in 1851. Cabs and omnibuses and peripatetic traffic will be allowed to enter at the Marble Arch and other entrances, and proceed by the Knightsbridge Barracks, and out at Prince's Gate. This route will not shorten the distance much, but it will facilitate the progress of the traffic by diverting it from Park-lane.

There is a painful suspicion about the Warrior—notwithstanding all the braying of trumpets which announced its splendid success—is a failure. That it does not steer well is certain; but other and serious failings are hinted at. Its failure to steer with promptitude and precision, if the evil should be incurable, is enough; for, in a general action, what would be the use of this huge monster, with all its reported impregnabilities and tremendous guns, if its enemies could swiftly take up any position they liked whilst it could only move tardily and with uncertainty?

Captain Halstead, too, has renewed his attack, in a long pamphlet, against Armstrong gunson board ship. It will be remembered that the gallant Captain's former attack was replied to by Sir W. Armstrong in a long letter in the *Times*, which the *Times* said was conclusive. Captain Halstead, however, did not think so, and sent a rejoinder to the *Times*; but, strange enough, it was refused admission. Hence its appearance as a pamphlet. The plea of the *Times* for refusal is curious—the guns are now being delivered to ships; the sailors' faith in them ought not to be disturbed. This is the substance of it. This is the story of the ostrich hiding its head exemplified. Captain Halstead certainly makes out a strong case for rigid inquiry.

Mr. Henry John Lincoln, I observe, is about to deliver, at the Marylebone Institution, two lectures on the Operatic Overture, from its origin to the present time. The illustrations, rendered as duets on two pianofortes, will exemplify the changes and modifications which have occurred in this form of the art, showing the progress and development of the operatic overture from Lully to Meyerbeer.

Literature.

Memorable Events of Modern History. By J. G. EDGAR. Allen and Co.

This work is another of that series of historical "books for boys" by which Mr. Edgar's name is so well and honourably known. The present volume, however, partakes more of the character of the author's "History for Boys" than of some others of his works, inasmuch as, instead of being devoted to the narration of the occurrences of one particular period, it embraces all the more important events in the world's history from the foundation of the French Monarchy in the year 181 to the English Reform Bill of 1832. Of course, to treat of so wide and varied a range of events in a single volume precluded the possibility of minute detail and philosophic generalisation, and yet Mr. Edgar's book is not a mere vague and sketchy narrative. The leading facts, dates, and the characteristics of the main actors in the events narrated are all accurately given. The work is alike free from the dulness of a mere compilation and the meagreness of an abridgment, and, whilst specially intended for the young, will be read with interest and profit by adults also. The style is lively, picturesque, and interesting; the epochs treated of are judiciously selected; and, as far as practical, chronological sequence is maintained in the arrangement. In short, the book embodies an excellent idea excellently worked out, and we doubt not will accomplish the purpose the author had in view in writing it—namely, to furnish to the young student a pleasing and attractive introduction to history, and at once interest, instruct, and induce a desire for more minute and elaborate investigation of the great and important epochs of history of which it treats. That the "events" dealt with in this volume really are "memorable" ones will be admitted when we state that among them are—the Foundation of the French Monarchy, the Anglo-Saxon Empire, the Norman Conquest, the Crusades, the Great Charter and the Barons' War, the English Wars in France, the Lollards, the Invention of Printing, the Introduction of Gunpowder, the Discovery of the New World, the Reformation, the Origin of the Dutch Republic, the great Civil War between Charles I. and the Parliament, the Revolution of 1688, the Foundation of the English Empire in the East, the American War of Independence, the French Revolutions, Catholic Emancipation, the English Reform Bill, &c. We must not forget to add that the book contains a chronological table, and a carefully-compiled index—always valuable features in an historical work, and especially so in one designed for the use of youth, and embracing so wide a range and so many and varied occurrences. We heartily recommend this volume to the attention of all interested in imbuing the young mind with a love of historical reading, and trust that Mr. Edgar will continue his efforts in this useful and valuable field of labour.

Cross Country. By WALTER THORNBURY, Author of "British Artists from Hogarth to Turner." Sampson, Low, and Co.

This octavo 310 pp. consists, the author tells us, chiefly of reprints, which represent a campaign of ten years in periodical literature. Wilts, Bucks, Killarney, Sussex—almost wherever you please—Mr. Thornbury will take you in his sketches, keeping up all the time a pleasant, gay rattle, in which he does himself only half justice, if so much. His pictures would be better if he took more pains; but he knows that very well; and, taking them at their lowest pretensions, there is a wonderful amount of gossiping information and hints of information in sketches such as these; while the language, now and then, runs off into something so much like poetry that you fancy it is a pity the author ever confines himself to plain prose.

The Poet of the Age. Hardwicke.

"The Poet of the Age" is an attempt, written half in rhyme and half without it, to show that poetry is on the decline, and then to give the reasons. It is a labour that might have been spared, for poetry is not on the decline that we know of. The fact, however, being assumed, this critic proceeds to account for it by suggesting (among other matters) that we eat too much meat and drink too much porter, which are, he opines, unfavourable to "inspiration," and indeed to all great effort. Lord Byron himself, he observes, could only keep up the sacred fire at the cost of semi-starvation. Now, here is a pretty "concatenation" of blunders. Lord Byron ate cabbage soaked in vinegar (see Mr. Trelawney's last book) to keep his fat down; but it is true that he said he could always write better after having adopted a process for which he quotes the authority of Dryden. In both cases, however, the secret of the success of the process was that the men had ruined their digestions. "Nerve-tissue," say the physiologists, "is inordinately expensive," and people who work their brains hard will be found to be good eaters, if in health. Men of action are, almost without exception, fond of the pleasures of the table (we write this, not forgetting Wellington and Franklin). It is possible, no doubt, that over-eating is a vice of our times; but the tendency of scientific opinion about our habits lies rather the other way. And, in any case, the fact that a man of good education, large reading, and some critical keenness (like the anonymous author before us), should be able coolly to put forward modern gluttony as one reason of the (alleged) decadence of poetry, is a very odd illustration of what degree of crotchetness an undisciplined mind may come to. People almost all imagine that thinking is a business which requires no self-denial. This gentleman, like many another thinker who might have thought to some little purpose if he had been wiser, has refused to put his faculties to school betimes, and the punishment is that his unclassified brain leads him into nonsense like the above. His book, as a whole, is of little value, though it contains, here and there, some not contemptible criticism. But what scattered instances

of cleverness can possibly weigh against a sentence like the one which we will here quote verbatim?—"Beef eating and porter beget crudity and ferociousness; crudity and ferociousness engender cowardice; and cowardice is the direct antidote to poetical effort."

THE LEBANON.

The Druses and the Maronites under the Turkish Rule from 1810 to 1860. By Colonel CHURCHILL, Author of "Ten Years' Residence in Mount Lebanon, 1853." B. Quaritch.

The Massacres in Syria. By J. LEWIS FARLEY, Author of "Two Years in Syria," &c. Second Edition. Bradbury and Evans.

The result of reading these two books is a conviction that it is hopeless to expect peace in the Lebanon, and especially safety for the Maronites, so long as the great Powers of Europe insist fantastically upon treating the Turks as a civilised nation. The preliminary vacillation, and the final bravado with which Turkey treated the demands of the European Commissioners respecting the massacres of 1860, are quite sufficient proof that a Turkish promise of protection to the Christian races will prove as delusive and cloudlike as the enchanting object of Ixion's embrace. True, there is a new Sultan, who promises well; but, in another sense of the word, his predecessor promised well, and everybody knows the value of his performance. Since the Crimean War it is not difficult to trace the deepest current of the Ottoman policy. The philosophers who hold the melancholy tenet that to do a service is to make an enemy might point unanswerably to Turkey as an illustration. Feeling, with a mean and ungentlemanlike shame, annoyance at having been saved from political destruction by the allied Powers, the Turkish Government speedily proceeded to show their independence of those Powers by insulting them. This is mere Eastern arrogance. The Porte is, doubtless, unaware that the "independence of Turkey" was not, in the light of those words, the exact thing for which England and France were fighting, but rather to prevent the absorption of the country by a crafty and aggressive northern Power; whilst, as for the Sardinian contingent, that, of course, can only be regarded as step the first of the King of Italy "from the Alps to the Adriatic." It has ever been Turkish policy to sow the seeds of dissension in the Lebanon, for fear of the various races uniting, and becoming a powerful independent people. But the partial disarming of the Maronites is an instance of unfair government, amounting to murder, unparalleled in modern times. It was depriving them of a chance, although their numbers were much larger than the Druses; and the result in 1860 was, that the Druses had butchering, not fighting, to do, and they did it on five thousand human beings, inclusive of many women and children. At the same time it is impossible to view with unmixed pity the conduct of the Maronites. Their "Christian" priests appear to be the most unpleasant set of religionists possible, and even the armed of their fighting men appear to have shown scarcely a particle of fight. The races have eternally been at war, and both sides appear to have been bad alike. But for the Maronites it must be said that the Turks have always been against them and for the Druses, notwithstanding their various undertakings to keep the peace amongst all parties. In the recent affair, for instance, wherever there was a scene of slaughter there was a corresponding instance of Turkish treachery, and also of Turkish participation in bloodshed. By way of compensation for all this, the authorities shuffled and shuffled until all the reparation made was the decapitation of a few Druses and one Pacha, and the draughting of a considerable number of Druses into the Turkish army. These embryo soldiers, it may be presumed, will be, when drilled, the troops selected to quell the next attempted massacre of the unarmed Maronites. So keenly, says Colonel Churchill, was the infamous conduct of the Turkish troops felt, that the Maronites declared "they would sooner be plundered by the Druses than protected by the Turks." Save the Maronites from their friends, indeed!

It must have been "the proudest moment of his life" to the Sultan when the French evacuated Syria. He once feared for Gallipoli and other places, but Syria seemed a certainty. French soldiers stick like burrs. As for the English, he knew he had nothing in that way to fear from them; and, besides, Sir Henry Bulwer makes things so pleasant. He would never be so ill-mannered as to stay too long.

For a vigorously-written portraiture of recent events, and of the weak policy of years past which has led to them, we are indebted to Colonel Churchill's volume. His long residence in the Lebanon has filled him with the politics and history of the country; and his book will be accepted as a careful drawing up of the case, which owes its weight to generally unseen Parliamentary papers, and to that valuable eyewitness qualification which gives at once vitality and ease.

Of Mr. Lewis Farley's book we scarcely care to speak. He also may claim the eyewitness qualification, being near the spot (i.e., Constantinople) during the period of the massacres and of the subsequent events. But each chapter is ephemeral, and deserves rather to be called "rumour" than "history." By-the-way, we can imagine an empty notice of Mr. Farley's book, commencing (as we have seen many under similar circumstances) with "the deserved popularity of 'The Massacres in Syria,' and the eager manner in which the public has sought so well-written a book upon so absorbing a subject has just been evidenced by the fact of a call for a second edition," &c. But any hand practised at the "gentle craft" would know, at a touch, at a glance, that the alleged "second edition" of Mr. Farley's volume is a second edition only as regards the title-page!

ROMAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GREAT EXHIBITION.—Mr. Macbean is actively engaged in forwarding to the International Exhibition the contributions of Roman exhibitors, of whom the list is headed by the Pope himself. His Holiness sends a magnificent missal, bound in crimson velvet, with gold clasps and mountings, and inclosed in an inlaid ebony case, which, when opened, forms a legio, or reading-desk, for the missal. The splendid work is entirely a home-made, or rather Rome-made production, the paper having been made expressly at the Government manufactory at Subiaco, the types cast for the purpose in Rome, the printing executed in colours at the Stamperia Camerale, the illuminated frontispieces painted by a distinguished Roman artist. After having been exhibited, this gorgeous specimen of modern missals is to be sent to Cardinal Wiseman as a Sovereign souvenir from Pio Nono. His Holiness also exhibits an extremely handsome crucifix, which is ultimately designed to enrich the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. George, in Southwark. Cardinal Antonelli sends two splendidly printed and bound breviaries, which, after having been exhibited, are also to be presented to Catholic communities in England.

THE FRENCH EMPEROR AND THE CONCLAVE OF BISHOPS AT ROME.—It seems that the Emperor of the French disapproves of the Pope's project for assembling all the Bishops of the Christian world at a conclave at Rome for the canonisation of martyrs. It was not to be expected that the Emperor would quietly submit to a movement evidently intended to thwart and embarrass him. Explanations were therefore demanded of Cardinal Antonelli. The Cardinal replied that the invitation to the Bishops was not obligatory, and that their presence was only required to give weight to a religious ceremony. This reply was not considered satisfactory, and the Government have expressed a "wish" that the Bishops should not quit their dioceses nor ask permission to leave the empire except on serious diocesan interests. No Bishops from the empire of the Eldest Son of the Church will therefore respond in person to the Holy Father's summons, and the notable scheme will in all likelihood be a palpable failure.

THE GREAT EASTERN.—The directors of the Great Eastern Steamship Company have decided upon the appointment of Captain Walter Paton, of Liverpool, as the future command of the Great Eastern. Captain Paton is now in the prime of life, and his appointment to the responsible post for which he has been selected was warmly urged upon the Great Eastern directors by some of the principal shipowners and steamship managers of Liverpool, who have for several years had ample opportunities of judging of his qualifications. Captain Paton's salary will be £1000 a year, with other contingent advantages. A boat's crew of her Majesty's ship Blenheim were waiting to moor the Great Eastern on the gridiron at Milford, when the hawser which was connected with the boat fouled in the fan of the screw, and a single revolution of the screw drew the boat under water. The boat was smashed to pieces, and the whole of the men were for some time in imminent danger, but ultimately they were all rescued except two.

THE AUSTRALIAN EXPLORERS.

We have already published a Portrait of Robert O'Hara Burke, the leader of the late exploring party in Australia, together with a slight account of his history and that of one of his unfortunate comrades, Wills, who, together with Burke and several others, lost his life in exploring the interior of the great Australian continent. We now add the Portraits of three others of the parties engaged in this great work, one of whom, unhappily, also perished in carrying it out, together with such particulars regarding them as we have been able to collect.

DR. LUDWIG BECKER,

the botanical member of the exploring party, was a German artist, and distinguished in his own country for the variety and extent of his scientific knowledge, as well as for his artistic attainments. He held the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and possessed a considerable acquaintance with botany, chemistry, mineralogy, and other sciences. On his first arrival in the Australasian colonies, which was at Hobart Town, he brought introductions to the Governor of Tasmania, Sir William Denison, by whom he was for a long time entertained at Government House. From that period Dr. Becker had been variously occupied, mining operations having especially engaged his attention. Dr. Mueller, the Government botanist and the Curator of the Melbourne Botanic Garden, secured his countryman's assistance in the compilation of his scientific works. On the organisation of the exploring party Dr. Becker obtained an appointment in connection with it, and would, had his constitution been equal to the trials of the journey, have certainly collected much valuable information relating to the botanical and mineralogical features of the interior of the country. The doctor left some interesting sketches of the district between the River Darling and Cooper's Creek, the merit of which heightens the regret that he should have been enabled to extend his observations no further. With a great deal of enthusiasm and mental activity, together with very superior natural capability for acquiring and retaining knowledge, Dr. Becker seems to have lacked that fixedness of purpose and continuity of effort which so essentially contribute to success in life. The unfortunate gentleman died about a hundred and fifty miles on the Melbourne side of Cooper's Creek, after a prolonged illness induced by fatigue and privation. His age was about forty-five.

JOHN KING,

the sole survivor of the gallant band which succeeded in traversing the interior, was a soldier, and also the son of a soldier. His father was in a Highland regiment; and the subject of this notice, who is only twenty-three years of age, has seen severe service in the regular army in India. Mr. Landells, who procured the camels for the exploration service, engaged King to accompany him to Melbourne and superintend the coolies in charge of those animals. On account of being enabled to communicate more readily with the Indian natives, Landells recommended King for an appointment with the expedition. For the rest, the quiet resolution and the many good qualities of the subject of this notice have proved such as to reflect credit on the discrimination with which he was



DESIGN FOR A MONUMENT TO THE LATE ROBERT O'HARA BURKE, THE CHIEF OF THE AUSTRALIAN EXPLORING EXPEDITION.—(CHARLES SUMMERS, SCULPTOR MELBOURNE.)

selected by Mr. Landells and afterwards adopted by Mr. Burke.

ALFRED HOWITT.

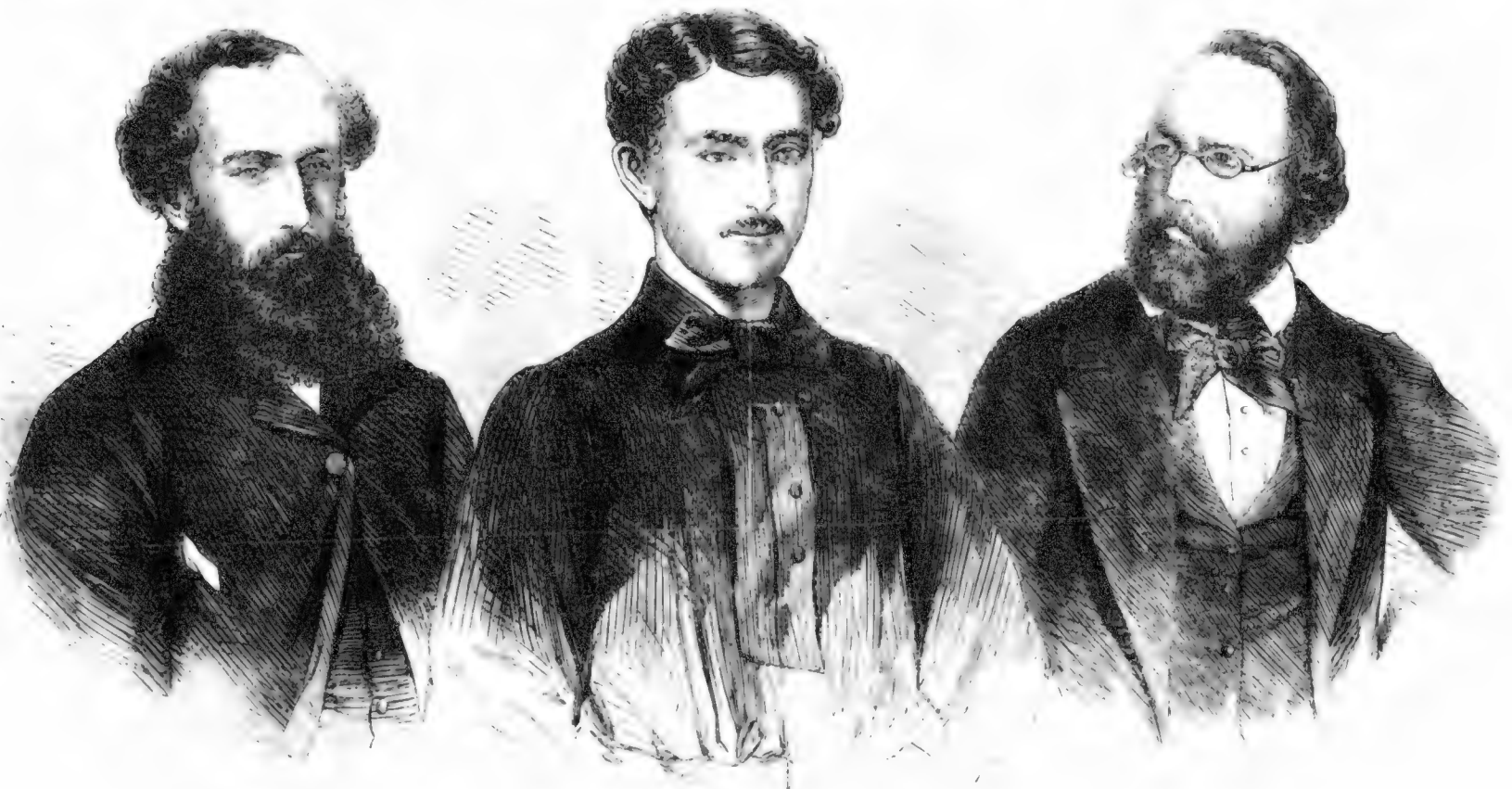
Of the life of the subject of the third Portrait which we have engraved little can at present be stated. He had been some years in the colony, and had acquired considerable experience of life in the interior, into which he had made occasional journeys of considerable extent. On alarm beginning to be felt as to the fate of Burke and his companions, Mr. Howitt was intrusted with the command of a supplementary or searching party sent out to endeavour to ascertain their fate and relieve them, if still alive. One part only of this duty, unfortunately, he was able to perform. He reached Cooper's Creek after the death of Burke, and, though too late to save the leader, Mr. Howitt brought back King to Melbourne, together with all the records of the expedition which had been preserved. This duty he seems to have performed in a satisfactory manner, and is therefore entitled to the gratitude of all who take an interest in the labour of discovery and in the fate of the brave men who have sacrificed themselves in its pursuit in Australia.

CHARLES GRAY.

It would be unjust to the memory of another member of the expedition, who went forth, like his companions, with life in his hand, and, like too many of them, laid it down in the wilderness, if we did not mention the name of Charles Gray in connection with this important enterprise. Gray joined the exploring party at Swan Hill, where he had for some time previously been engaged in the punt on the Murray, and also in the pursuit of various avocations incident to pastoral life. Previously to this he had acquired considerable bush experience by stock-riding in an outlying station in New South Wales. He had originally been a sailor, and was for a time in the Queen's service in a ship of war off these coasts. Gray's health was the first to be broken down by the hardships of desert travel. Every assistance appears to have been afforded to him by his companions, but famine and weariness were to do their work. Slowly, but with a terrible certainty of doom, the hapless wanderer lost his strength, his hope, and, at last, all consciousness except that of bodily suffering. Within a few days' journey from what they trusted would be a termination of all their perils, did the toilworn and hunger-stricken explorers lay the bones of their lost companion in that lonely sepulchre beneath the sands of the wilderness.

MONUMENT TO BURKE.

A movement was on foot at the date of our last advices from Australia to raise a monument to the memory of Burke and his companions; and a model had been executed for the purpose by Mr. Charles Summers, of which we publish an Engraving. Of the design and the propriety of erecting which must commend itself to every one, a Melbourne contemporary says:—"Mr. Summers is a sculptor whose talent the colony may be considered fortunate in possessing, and the marble busts he has already produced would appear to advantage in any gallery in Europe. The group is harmonious in arrangement, its general outline most happily pleasing,



ALFRED HOWITT,
LEADER OF THE CONTINGENT EXPEDITION.

JOHN KING,
SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE BURKE EXPEDITION.

DR. LUDWIG BECKER,
ARTIST AND BOTANIST OF THE BURKE EXPEDITION.

the figures highly expressive, and the entire work abounding in sentiment. On each side of the pedestal is an enriched tablet designed to contain representations of scenes and incidents connected with the expedition. It is also proposed to place on the pedestal medallions of Dr. Becker and others who have died in the cause of exploration. The entire design is exceedingly creditable to the good taste and poetic feeling, as well as to the imaginative and constructive faculties, of our Melbourne sculptor."

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE EXPEDITION.—LATEST EXPLORING NEWS.

The Melbourne papers state that "a commission of inquiry, appointed by Government, has been prosecuting an inquiry into the management of an undertaking that has been attended by so many calamities. The tendency of the evidence elicited before the commission is to fix upon the managing committee a charge of having shown very inadequate judgment and a signal poverty of any practical knowledge of the peculiar features and difficulties of the matter they undertook to direct. The committee were, perhaps, deficient in but one respect, as a body, they knew nothing whatever of the business they took in hand. With the exception of one member, they had never stood face to face with the grim perils of the wilderness, and wrestled with famine and exposure. They could not be expected to form a very just estimate of the nature of the enterprise through the simple agency of the imagination. The committee wanted not in diligence and most excellent intention, and the mistakes of the body seem to have been inseparable from its constitution. Its machinery was too cumbrous and tardy in its operation, its members were too numerous for a proper feeling of individual responsibility to obtain among them, and they found it difficult to realise an idea of there existing amid such aggregated intelligence any form of fallibility."

Additional interest has been woven in with this story of Australian exploration by a report of Mr. John M'Kinlay, which has appeared in the Adelaide journals. Mr. M'Kinlay was dispatched at the instance of the South Australian Government, in command of a relief party, with the design both of succouring the Victorian explorers and supplementing their discoveries. From this gentleman's narrative we gather that his party reached a point a few days' journey to the northward of Cooper's Creek, and there obtained from the natives an obscure account of white men having met with a violent death at the hands of the blacks. A grave was pointed out, opened by M'Kinlay, and found to contain the remains of a white man, the description of which, and especially of the clothing, have led to a strong belief that the remains were those of Gray. The natives describe the instrument of death as a kind of sword, from five to eight feet in length, and M'Kinlay is thus assisted to the possession of a fancy that the white man's skull has sabre cuts on the forehead. This is but the natural effect of a predisposition to fasten with avidity on the marvellous element in the evidence. Mention is made of a fragment of a nautical almanack, and this seems to point strongly to the probability of Wills having been there; but there is much difficulty in giving an intelligible form to the narratives of the natives. The aborigines met with in this district appeared to be possessed of a knowledge of white men having proceeded to the north, and altogether the sum of testimony gathered from the report seems to indicate that the human relics discovered were those of the unfortunate Gray. Gray died on the 17th of April, four days before Burke's party regained the Cooper's Creek dépot, and the position of the spot where this occurred, thus inferentially arrived at, accords pretty well with the position of M'Kinlay's discovery, as he describes it. It is to be regretted that the South Australian party should have been forced into a collision with the black men, resulting in bloodshed, as the feelings of amity engendered by Mr. Howitt's distribution of rewards and presents, when on his searching expedition for Burke and his companions would, probably be thereby to some extent disturbed. It appears that a native, captured with a view to elicit from him some information, was allowed to depart to recover a pistol which he described as being at his camp. This man, before leaving, exhibited bullet scars on his body, having evidently been so wounded several times. On the following morning he returned with about forty of his tribe, and made unmistakable demonstrations of a purpose to attack M'Kinlay's people; and, as all mere threatening action on the part of the white men was disregarded, they were forced to fire, and, after repeated volleys, their assailants drew off in sullen and unprecipitate retreat.

"THE CHAMBERMAID."

We should like to inquire of the artist whether this is a portrait or "a study;" because, notwithstanding a tolerably extensive acquaintance with hotels, we fail to recognise it as representing the class of young women it is supposed to depict. It may be an exceptional case—we should almost hope it is—but in our journeyings to and fro the original has certainly never made her appearance, either with the expensive wax candle, the ineffectual stump of a guttered dip in the battered tin candlestick, or the dislocated rush-light. As to her ever bringing hot water, we consider that quite out of the question, since it has never fallen to our lot to be supplied with that useful fluid by any other than the boots, or one of those mature females who are generally selected to wait upon the guests at all well-regulated establishments. Perhaps in the "good old coaching days" there might have existed "rosy," "pert," "assiduous," and "cheerful" chambermaids, whose personal attractions rendered the establishment complete, famous as they were already for generous wines, cosy rooms, snug bar-parlours, artfully concocted punch, witty conversation, jovial company, and sheets smelling of lavender; but we had but a juvenile acquaintance with these "good old days," and, having at divers times visited the "good old coaching-houses," have found them to be great, rambling, dreary, wooden-galleried intricate, ghostly old tenements; draughty without being well

may probably be preceded by a request that you will give her the usual gratuity at once. Not the most inveterate joker could bandy a passing jest as she vanishes down the dark passage; the most careless wayfarer would feel the unnatural shock of that dim apartment, with its carefully-blocked fire-place, its rattling casement, its door, which either will not lock, or, being locked, defies every effort to open it. There were two pictures a little while ago which seemed to attain a shop-window popularity. One of them was called "Sherry," the other "Did you ring, Sir?" Where did any body ever see the originals? "Sherry, Sir" ("Yes, Sir") should have had for its subject a waiter with sleek and oily hair, a frowsy neckcloth, a still more frowsy napkin, and a gloomy and yet pertinacious manner.

"Did you ring, Sir?" should have been the same waiter, after you had waited in vain for the sherry, and he had forgotten all about it. Why didn't the artist who painted our pretty chambermaid put the name of the hotel in the catalogue, or by a simple expedient have drawn her holding a letter in her upraised hand on which the address was distinctly legible?

THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

NEARLY half the painting of the nave has now been completed, and much of the rich effect which it will have when all is done can be realised. It certainly comes out remarkably well. The greater part of both of the transepts is also finished, and the scaffolding is being pulled down as fast as the beams can be drawn away and sawn up for flooring for the northern courts. The latter are nearly all floored, and the gallery which will give access to the refreshment rooms from the building is being rapidly finished. The domes are nearly glazed in, and the work of decorating the eastern one was begun on Saturday last. The designs for the adornment promise to be rich and appropriate in their effect, though, in consequence of both domes being now completely filled up with scaffolding, Mr. Crace labours under the disadvantage of not being able to judge of the effect of anything till the scaffold is down, when the mistake, if any be made, will be beyond recall. As far, however, as can be judged from small designs for such a vast interior, the general tone of the colours adopted appears to be all that can be desired. It is necessary, however, that the painting of these domes, like all the rest of the works, should be hurried on with the utmost possible rapidity, for the dome scaffolds have yet to come down before the nave can be floored or the dais at each end erected, and the removal of the scaffolds alone will occupy the best part of three weeks.

The rush of goods into the building has not yet commenced. The most remote of our colonies seem to be the first in the field. St. Helena followed close upon the goods from Liberia, and on Saturday last the collection from Prince Edward Island was deposited in the French Court, and on Monday that from Newfoundland. These latter, of course, consist entirely of colonial produce. Indeed, the colonies seem all entering into the spirit of the exhibition with a zeal and enterprise that almost outstrip the manufacturers of the mother country. Canada is sending a very fine collection of

goods and produce, while Australia will be represented by a really superb exhibition, and its Government has given £10,000 towards defraying the expenses of sending it over, and setting it out with proper effect. Among other curiosities coming from Australia is a wooden obelisk, dead gilt on the outside. This column is nearly 70ft. high, and some 10ft. square at the base. It represents exactly the bulk of gold which Australia has sent to this country since 1851, and which in all amounts to nearly 800 tons. The base of this column will be surrounded by various specimens of gold quartz from the different reefs, nuggets, alluvial gold, washing-craddles, &c. In the department of machinery in motion will be a quartz-crushing machine in full work, and for the supply of which a cargo of gold quartz is now on its way to this country.

The great road difficulty—partly a nightmare—is not yet solved. The debates last week and this in the House of Commons promise to kill the project of uniting Bayswater to Kensington. Any plan that threatens to injure Kensington Gardens is utterly and deservedly unpopular, and the warmest friends to international exhibitions must be glad to see it given up. The roads round the Exhibition building are as much in need of reform as the feeding thoroughfares, and we are glad to learn that the commissioners are determined to improve them. Unless the building is to be turned into a fortress surrounded by a moat or a ditch, the sooner this reform is begun the better.



THE CHAMBERMAID.—HOT WATER FOR NO. 1.—(FROM A PICTURE, BY MARSHALL CLAXTON, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.)

ventilated, and with a perpetual smell of stable. The dirty old rooms had nothing cosy about them, unless flymarks, dust, and bad fires are cosy—the bar-parlours were dark and melancholy caverns—the company, when there was anybody there, consisted of people who had become taciturn and irritable under the general sense of depression—the wines were flat and stale, but by no means unprofitable to the landlord—the beds were either stuffy, or were furnished with sheets which felt as though they had been starched—and the chambermaids, whatever they might have been under former cheerful influences (and from their ages they were probably the same people), had certainly more pickled cabbage than rose in their complexions, had lost "pertness" in a general sense of injury, and were, perhaps, only as assiduous as could be expected under the general decay of old associations.

Surely nothing can be more dispiriting than to pass a night in one of these good old houses. From the first clang of the bell which calls the boots to your assistance all is doleful. The boots himself passes his time in a half-glazed cupboard, where he enjoys the society of a bottle of blacking, sundry boxes of lucifers, the supplement of last week's newspaper, and a collection of the oldest flat candlesticks, and shortest pieces of smutty dips. It is no lightly-tripping figure with smart cap and bright eyes which precedes you to your room door. A middle-aged female, of slow and labouring gait, toils painfully up the creaking stairs; and her "Good night"

GENERAL MONTAUBAN.—A bill having been submitted to the Chambers, granting a pension to General Montauban, the commander of the French contingent in the late war in China, the gallant General has addressed a letter to the Emperor, requesting him to withdraw the bill, because he has no wish to see the Emperor's name associated with the name of a man who has met with opposition in the Congress of London. However small the sum may be, it is a mark of recognition, and the Emperor will be very much pleased to see the Emperor and the glory of the army turned into a discussion personal to myself." To this letter the Emperor has replied in the following terms:—"The request which you make to me to withdraw the bill of donation is inspired to you by a sentiment which I honour; but I shall not withdraw the bill. The Legislative Body may, if it pleases, not think worthy of an exceptional reward the leader of a band of heroic soldiers who, amidst so many difficulties and dangers, forgotten on the morrow of peace, went to the aid of the world to plant the flag of France in the midst of a nation of 200,000,000; a leader who, while maintaining the dignity and independence of his command, undertakes to preserve his friendly and friendly relations without allies. Every man is free to take his own view of the matter. As far as I am concerned, I wish the country and the army to know that, impelled to be a judge of military and political issues, I have wished to honour by a national donation an illustrious soldier. Great actions are most easily performed when they are not appreciated, and degenerate nations alone do not public gratitude."

LAW AND CRIME.

THE action of Trew and Another v. the Railway Passengers' Assurance Company was founded upon a policy by virtue of which the representatives of a Mr. Hiorns became entitled, upon his death during a certain journey, to the sum of £250. The plaintiffs were executors of Hiorns, and set forth that during his excursion he had been drowned while bathing off the coast. His clothes were found on the steps of a bathing-machine. A reward—at first £1, afterwards £15—was offered for the discovery of his remains. It was proved that he had said he was going to bathe, had left a friend, as if for that purpose, and it was not shown that he had afterwards been seen by any witness in the cause. A primary question, as to whether his death by drowning, under the circumstances suggested, would be sufficient to ground a claim upon the policy, had been decided in favour of the plaintiffs by the Court of Exchequer. In support of the plaintiffs' case it was proved that some weeks after the finding of Hiorns' clothes a naked body, much decomposed and partly devoured by crows, had been picked up from the shore at Walton-on-the-Naze. It was shown from experience that bodies of persons drowned at Brighton had floated to or near to the same place. The brother of Hiorns deposed to his belief that the body found was that of the insurer, stating as the grounds for such belief the height of the forehead and the absence of a tooth in the left jaw. Two of the friends of the "deceased" expressed a similar opinion. Such was the substance of the plaintiffs' case, which was somewhat damaged, perhaps, by an admission that nothing of value was found at the lodgings of the supposed deceased, and that a silver watch known to have been in his possession was still missing. Still, it is well known that many ordinarily-decent persons would hesitate to rob a living man of the value of a penny would not scruple to remove such an article as a watch from the person or clothing of a dead one, philosophically considering that the loss would occasion him no inconvenience. For the defence a point was made that the brother admitted that he had not paid the reward offered, although he expressed his willingness to do so out of the damages should he recover a verdict. This may have weighed with the jury; but, strictly speaking, the brother was as much entitled as the company to have the decision of a jury as to the identity of the body, and might reasonably enough object to pay out of his own pocket a sum which he could willingly afford were the death clearly proved and the consequent compensation received. On the whole, the case was just one of those on which any reasonable man might find cause for honest doubt. The jury, after debating for an hour and a half, declared themselves unable to decide as to whether a disfigured body, which they had never seen, washed up at Walton-on-the-Naze in October, 1856, was that of a certain individual whom none of them had ever known, who had left his clothes on the steps of a bathing-machine at Brighton in September of the year last aforesaid; consequently the jury rendered themselves legally liable to unlimited imprisonment, without fire, food, or candle; but the learned Judge who presided expressed himself to the effect that this liability was the remnant of a barbarous custom, and benevolently discharged them, declining, moreover, for his own part, to deliver any opinion upon the question.

In the Queen's Bench, on Tuesday last, was tried an action of *Ledger v. Webster*. The plaintiff is proprietor of the *Era* newspaper, and the defendant lessee of the Adelphi Theatre. At the time of the fête at the Crystal Palace on behalf of the funds of the Dramatic College, the *Era* published in its columns certain reflections upon the style of the entertainments in which the members of the Adelphi company played prominent parts. Hereupon Mr. Webster, in that curious epistolary style which he has rendered famous, wrote to Mr. Ledger, demanding the name and address of the writer of one of the articles, adding, "I demand a public apology from him or you for knowingly inserting an infamous falsehood, or—and my circulation is larger than yours—I will post you both in London and in every town in England." With this request Mr. Ledger, not having the fear of Mr. Webster's large circulation before his eyes, declined compliance. Mr. Webster consequently ceased to advertise in the *Era*, which, shortly afterwards, nevertheless published an announcement of a "benefit" by Mr. Toole at the Adelphi. Mr. Toole, accompanied by Mr. Paul Bedford, called on Mr. Ledger and requested him not to repeat the advertisement, the appearance of which might annoy Mr. Webster. Mr. Ledger not only repeated but increased the length of the advertisement, as if for this very purpose. Hereupon Mr. Webster published at the top of his play-bills the following remarkable effusion—

To the Public.—The advertisement of Mr. Toole's benefit that appeared on Saturday, Aug. 24, in Mr. Frederick Ledger's paper was unauthorised by the management or any one connected with this establishment, either directly or indirectly. It is a gratuitous insult on the part of this very low-minded person to mislead the public and the profession. The insertion was forbidden both by Mr. Toole and myself, and it shows to what painful resources this journal is obliged to resort in giving free advertisements and puffs at sixpence per line to maintain its limited circulation.

Of course scarcely one person in a hundred who read the bills of the Adelphi at this period knew what journal was designated as "Mr. Frederick Ledger's paper," or whether the designation of "this very low-minded person" was intended to apply to Mr. Ledger or to Mr. Toole. But Mr. Ledger took the announcement as offensive to himself, and hence the action for libel. For the defence justification was pleaded—namely, that Mr. Ledger was a low-minded person, and obliged to "resort" to "puffs," "resources," &c., as before stated. The trial resolved itself into a complete comic dramatic entertainment. Mr. Webster was submitted to a cross-examination as to "Aunt Sally" and "knock-em-downs," both which sports formed portions of the attractions at the Palace. Mr. Toole spoke as to his calling on the plaintiff and requesting the non-insertion of the advertisement. But the greater feature in the case was the appearance of Mr. Bedford in the witness-box. "His Christian name is Paul, my Lord," observed Serjeant Ballantine, as the witness made three separate bows to the Judge, the jury, and the audience. "I believe," asked the learned counsel, "you were the fair Jemima on the

occasion at the Crystal Palace?" "Yes, Sir," replied Paul with Johnsonian ponderosity; "I *luricated in that part!*" Mr. Stuart, also an actor, spoke to having once paid at the rate of 6d. per line for the reproduction in the *Era* of a paragraph cut from a Sheffield paper in which a performance of his (Mr. Stuart's) had been favourably noticed. The charges as to the free advertisements and the "puffs at 6d. per line" were thus to some extent borne out. With respect to the plaintiff's low-mindedness, evidence was adduced as to the tenor of certain advertisements published in the *Era*, and which were shown to refer to books, pictures, and certain other matters of a class reflecting no credit upon the advertisers. Mr. Ledger himself, upon the works as advertised being brought before his notice, acknowledged them to be (we will use a milder term) reprehensible. The Judge, however, directed the jury that Mr. Ledger could not be blamed for such announcements unless they, and the matters to which they referred, could be shown to have been brought under his notice. Finally, the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, with 1s. damages, which decision will leave each party to the payment of his own costs.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

THE DOG-STEALERS.—William Taylor, fifty-one, shoemaker, and Eleanor Locke, forty, a married woman, were indicted under Bishop's Act for unlawfully and corruptly taking from a lady named Wood the sum of £10, on account of aiding her to recover a Pomeranian dog, her property, the said dog having been stolen.

The prisoners were found guilty, and sentenced—Taylor to eighteen months' and the woman to one month's hard labour.

POLICE.

HOW TO GET "CRIMINAL JUSTICE."—James Briarly Arwal, a tall, gaunt man, a map-colourer, was charged with stealing two volumes of "Jardine's Criminal Justice" from the shop-window of Mr. Thomas White, bookseller, 161, Fleet-street.

The prisoner, who said he committed the theft through destitution, was sent to Holloway Prison for twenty-one days.

EXTRAORDINARY ROBBERY IN A DWELLING-HOUSE.—Edward Henry, aged forty-nine, brushmaker, was charged with stealing a small mahogany box, containing five brooches, three rings, a pair of earrings, a row of coral beads, and a set of shirt studs, in all valued at about £10, the property of Mrs. Pugh, of Great Prescott-street, Whitechapel.

One morning lately, soon after ten o'clock, Mrs. Pugh left home, and upon her return found the prisoner in the passage of her dwelling-house. She was informed the prisoner had been in her bedroom, and upon proceeding there she discovered a nest of four drawers had been forced open and ransacked, and from one of them missed a small box containing the articles above mentioned. The box, with the contents undisturbed, was delivered to her at the station-house in Whitechapel.

Mary Ann Watkins said—I live at No. 62, Great Prescott-street. While Mrs. Pugh was out, I saw the prisoner coming out of her bedroom. I seized him, and said, "You have no business there, and I shall not let you go until Mrs. Pugh comes home and says her property is all correct." I detained him until the afternoon. He tried to get away several times. I was determined to keep him until Mrs. Pugh came home, and succeeded; and saved her property.

Mr. Silke—Upon my word, you have behaved with great shrewdness and courage in this matter, and deserve great praise.

Thomas Spiller, a police-constable, said that he searched the prisoner at the station-house after he was given into his custody, and found a small mahogany box, with its contents entire, and five skeleton keys, in his pocket. One of the keys fitted the lock of Mrs. Pugh's bedroom door. The prisoner was convicted of larceny on the 19th of June last, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

Mr. Silke—Where, and by whom?

Spiller—In this court, by you, Sir.

Mr. Silke—The prisoner is committed for trial.

The Prisoner—Settle it here, Sir. I will plead guilty.

Mr. Silke—I am tired of that sort of thing. I cannot sentence you to penal servitude. You will go before a jury this time.

ROBBERY AT THE PANTHEON MUSIC HALL.—George Bedford, stoker, was charged with stealing the hat, coat, scarf, gloves, &c., of Mr. Greenwood, upholsterer.

The complainant said he was at the Pantheon Music Hall, Oxford-street, and put the articles on the counter. The prisoner took them up and walked to the back part of the premises; but, thinking it was only a joke, he did not interfere till finding the prisoner did not come back, he spoke to the proprietor, and the prisoner was afterwards found and given into custody.

A man named Harris proved by the coat of the prisoner, and Harris, 184 C, that he found the prosecutor's pocket-book on the prisoner.

The waiter stepped forward and wanted to know why he was not to be heard, as he was really the only "important" witness. After being told that it was not necessary, but that if it was any gratification to his feelings he should be heard, he said the "gentleman" (the prisoner) put on the other gentleman's clothes and asked if he did not look like "a real gentleman," and that the prosecutor was so pleased with the change in his appearance that he told the "gentleman" (the prisoner) that he might keep the things, called him his friend, and said that he would take him out and have a jollification with him.

Mr. Tyrwhitt, having told the waiter that he hoped he felt better after delivering himself of the important statement, committed the prisoner for a month, with hard labour.

AN ANGEL'S WIDOW.—James Berry, an old man, about seventy, was charged with assaulting his wife and with assaulting a police-constable in the execution of his duty.

The wife, an elderly female, said that the prisoner got drunk on the previous night, and when he came home he knocked her about and blackened her eyes. Her screams brought a constable to her assistance, and he was secured. Witness did not want to hurt him. All she wanted was a separation.

Magistrate—Why, how long have you been married?

Witness—Only nine months, and he has beat me ever since, and illused me constantly.

Magistrate—Have you been married before?

Witness—Yes, Sir. I was married to my first husband thirty-four years, and he never even lifted his finger to me.

Prisoner—Well, I don't know about that. You told me when I first married you that I was the best of the two.

Witness—I never said so, you brute. My first husband was an angel to me.

The magistrate then asked the prisoner what he had to say for himself. He replied that what his wife had said was all false. She aggravated him, and he was sure no mortal man could stand her tongue. He, however, promised not to molest her again.

The magistrate fined him £5 for the assault on the constable, and ordered him to find bail.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

NOTWITHSTANDING that only a moderate amount of business has been transacted in Home Securities, both for Money and Time, the market generally since we last wrote has shown more firmness, and the quotations have had an upward tendency. Consols have realised 99½; Reduced and New Three per Cents, 98½; 4½ per Cents, 101½; India 3½ per Cents, 101½; India 2½ per Cents, 101½; India 1½ per Cents, 101½; India ¾ per Cents, 101½; India ½ per Cents, 101½; India ¼ per Cents, 101½; India 1/8 per Cents, 101½; India 1/16 per Cents, 101½; India 1/32 per Cents, 101½; India 1/64 per Cents, 101½; India 1/128 per Cents, 101½; India 1/256 per Cents, 101½; India 1/512 per Cents, 101½; India 1/1024 per Cents, 101½; India 1/2048 per Cents, 101½; India 1/4096 per Cents, 101½; India 1/8192 per Cents, 101½; India 1/16384 per Cents, 101½; India 1/32768 per Cents, 101½; India 1/65536 per Cents, 101½; India 1/131072 per Cents, 101½; India 1/262144 per Cents, 101½; India 1/524288 per Cents, 101½; India 1/1048576 per Cents, 101½; India 1/2097152 per Cents, 101½; India 1/4194304 per Cents, 101½; India 1/8388608 per Cents, 101½; India 1/16777216 per Cents, 101½; India 1/33554432 per Cents, 101½; India 1/67108864 per Cents, 101½; India 1/134217728 per Cents, 101½; 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cases which commenced with the ordinary symptoms of a common cold. Halloway's Ointment, rubbed upon the back and throat, prevents all disastrous consequences.

LOW ON : Printed and Published at the Office, 2, Catherine street, in the Parish of St Mary in Strand in the County of Middlesex, by Thomas WOOD, 2, Catherine-street, Strand, aforesaid.—SATURDAY